

Bush: Spy case 'very serious'

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President George Bush Monday described reports that a former U.S. diplomat in Vienna may have spied for the Soviets as "very serious" but said officials have not yet assessed potential damage to U.S. security. "I have known about this matter for some time. It is a very tragic thing should the allegations be true," Bush told reporters, commenting for the first time on Felix S. Bloch, who is under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The president refused to reveal details of the case, noting that the investigation was still under way. But he said: "Any time a person is ... allegedly involved in something like betraying his country, that to me is a very serious matter." Asked about possible damage to U.S. security, Bush, a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director, replied that an assessment was not possible at this time. He added that the spy case, if proven, "doesn't help" improve relations between the superpowers, even though everyone knows that "espionage goes on." (see page 5)

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة يومية المنشورة عن المؤسسة الأردنية للصحافة

Sudanese envoy visits Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Sudan's interior minister arrived in Syria Monday as part of a diplomatic drive to seek Arab support for the junta which seized power in Khartoum last month. Lieutenant-General Faisal Abu Saleh, a member of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, arrived from Amman and is also due to visit North and South Yemen. The council's deputy chairman, Brigadier Al Zubeir Mohammed Saleh, arrived in Iraq Saturday on a similar mission after visiting Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. Diplomats said Abu Saleh would deliver a message from Sudanese leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir on the aims of his coup to President Hafez Al Assad. Bashir toppled the government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi June 30. Syria has so far not commented officially on the coup but the media has carried all the statements of the new leaders.

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World conference on aerospace education opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Sixth World Congress on Aerospace Education was opened here Monday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein. The three-day congress is attended by delegates from 19 countries and a number of international organisations. Twenty-eight speakers will share their views and ideas about the different aspects of air travel and space travel. One of the highlights of the gathering is the participation of two Soviet cosmonauts. In opening remarks, the Regent stressed that man's experience in space had revolutionised the understanding of the planet earth and its natural resources as well as space environments and at the knowledge should be utilised for the welfare of mankind. Other speakers at the opening session included World Aerospace Education Organisation (WAE) Chairman Kamal Naguib, Royal Jordanian Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour and UNESCO Special Representative Mohammad I. Kazem (full story on page 3).

Palestinians hot and killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (J.T.) — Masked assailants fired on the Israeli-run municipality in Gaza City Monday, killing one Arab worker and wounding a second, Palestinians and other sources said. The attack in broad daylight came as underground leaders of 19-month-old Palestinian uprising warned in their latest leaflet that "executions" of accused collaborators with Israel were going out of hand. The masked men fired on workers at the entrance to the municipality in the centre of the occupied Gaza Strip. An Israeli spokesman said the two men were in a car. Izzat Jundiye, 45, was killed. Ramadan Yunis Eid, 39, was badly wounded. Both worked the accounting department, Palestinians said. Throughout the uprising, nationalists have warned Palestinians to stop working for Israeli institutions. Attacks on alleged collaborators have soared.

Shamir offering semi-independence

UNIS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has offered Palestinians in the occupied territories "semi-independence," Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in an interview published Monday. Arafat told a correspondent in Beirut that the offer came in a report to the PLO from one of the PLO's most prominent figures who have met with Shamir over the past two weeks. "He is offering two periods. The first period is self-administration and after that semi-independence," Arafat said, reading from a copy of the report received in Tunis. It was not immediately clear the phrase was Shamir's own, a paraphrase by the Palestinian who wrote the report. Under Shamir's proposal for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a period of autonomy would lead to negotiations on the future status of the territories. Shamir's Likud Party has insisted a Palestinian state is out of the question, but the PLO is campaigning for a Palestinian state alongside Israel. Arafat said he did not know how semi-independence might sound to him. Although the offer was not in itself positive, he said a PLO was pleased that the ceilings were being taken place. "He (Shamir) knows that we (the Palestinians) are going to report to the PLO, although he is trying to hide his head in the sand like an ostrich. He is asking dialogue with us definitely," Arafat said. A senior Palestinian source in the occupied territories who saw reports filed by three of the participants said Shamir dismissed hardline conditions adopted by his own Likud Party for elections in the occupied territories as a "buff." The participants quoted Shamir as saying Palestinians could share most of their hopes for self-determination through his plan, although it ruled out a Palestinian state at present. "It seems that he is serious,



A Lebanese boy drinks water from a hose in west Beirut. The Lebanese capital is suffering from an acute water and power shortage due to the continuous violence. At least six people were reported drowned in quests for water.

Quest for water kills six

No room for the dead in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Artillery duels pushed thousands of Beirutis to flee the city Monday, some taking their dead with them amid reports that after 14 years of civil war the city's cemeteries had reached capacity. The ghost town atmosphere also spawned the first major bank heist in two years. "I have never seen Beirut in such sadness," said one resident. "It is as if the whole of Lebanon is preparing for a funeral." Syrian-backed Lebanese militiamen pounded east Beirut and the coast north of the capital killing a Greek Orthodox priest and wounding three others. Rival artillery positions blasted gun emplacements along west Beirut's waterfront 'Ain Mreisseh boulevard. But all shells landed offshore and there were no casualties, a police said. Police also said six people drowned at the weekend trying to raise water from wells in western districts of Beirut, which has been without water for a week. The latest casualties raised the overall toll to 453 dead and 1,859 injured since the current civil war confrontation erupted March 8 between army commander Michel Aoun's 20,000 mostly Christian troops and Syrian-backed Lebanese militiamen. The shelling went on sporadically through the night, but declined in intensity from the weekend. Police said that 700,000 of the city's 1.5 million population have fled since March, with more than 250,000 streaming out in the past few days. In west Beirut's Mar Elias district, masked gunmen stormed into the Bank of Beirut for Commerce, locked up its employees and clients in one room and escaped with an estimated \$40,000, police said. There was no clue to the identity of the assailants, he said. Bank robberies proliferated during the lawless period between 1984 and 1987 when feuding militias fought for control of west Beirut. The robberies declined after the Syrians sent troops to the western sector to restore order. The dead priest was identified as Father Elias Abdul-Karim, 76, killed when a shell hit his house in east Beirut's Sin Al Fil residential district at dawn, police said. Caskets have been piling up around the city's cemeteries, and both ambulances and hearse were seen leaving Beirut Monday to take the dead to other parts of Lebanon for burial. The conservative newspaper Al Diyar, based in east Beirut, said in a front page report that "Cemeteries in

Beirut, the city of death, have no room left for new graves." The newspaper quoted an unidentified cemetery caretaker as saying: "Graves are full. The new fatalities will have to remain out in the open because there is no burial space left in public or private cemeteries."

More than 150,000 people have been killed since the civil war broke out in 1975, most in and around Beirut. Muslim and Christian clergymen confirmed the newspaper report. At times Beirut seemed a city of the dead, with the vast public beaches deserted and the only people on the streets looking for water.

"Water vendors are making a killing," said Zuhair Mullah, a 27-year-old janitor who said he had just invested his savings in 200 gallons of water, half of which he plans to sell. The quest for water caused the drownings, with four of the six victims in the same family, said a police spokesman.

Hussein Mikdad, 26, climbed down a well in south Beirut's slum of Ouzai Sunday to bring up water for his house nearby, but slipped off a wooden ladder and drowned, the spokesman said. So did his brother, Hassan, 27, his cousin Mohammad Ali, 38, and Hassan, 25, who rushed to the rescue one after another, the spokesman added.

Soviet strikes 'a scream of despair,' parliament told

MOSCOW (R) — Miners' strikes that have swept the Soviet Union are "a scream of despair" at the failure of the Communist Party and official unions to protect the rights of workers, a deputy told the new Soviet parliament Monday. Other deputies to the parliament, the Supreme Soviet, warned that the strike movement could quickly spread to other industries and said that despite a slow return to work in the coal mines social tension remained high. "This was a scream of despair," declared Yuri Golik, a law lecturer and deputy from the city of Kemerovo in western Siberia's Kuzbass coal basin region where strike committees took control two weeks ago, bringing the mines to a standstill. "Explosions have started and we can expect a chain reaction," said Alexei Boiko from the Donbass in the Ukraine. Soviet President and party

chief Mikhail Gorbachev, who has issued three appeals for a return to work in the mines, looked on. "People have been pushed onto the streets not by a shortage of soap, but by a shortage of justice," said Boiko, referring to an almost total absence in state shops across the country of basic consumer goods. "The miners of Donetsk trust nobody and nothing. This is what we have come to... there is no defence, not from the work councils, not from the party committees. There is no defence, and that's an end of it."

Nikolai Fyodorov, a young deputy from the west Ural industrial city of Cheboksary said: "This is not just the working class striking. This is the whole people showing they have been led into despair." The dramatic portrayal of the extent of worker discontent over the failure of Gorbachev's "perestroika" reform programme to bring immediate improvements in their lives came in an emergency debate on the mine strikes. Despite a televised appeal from Gorbachev Sunday and another warning at the start of the debate Monday of the possible effect of further stoppages on the ailing economy, tens of thousands of miners remained on strike. A local journalist in Donetsk said 73 pits out of 125 in the Donbass remained idle but all were still on strike in Donetsk itself, pending the outcome of talks a delegation of their leaders hoped to have with top officials in Moscow. Although the Kuzbass and Karaganda coalfields in central Asia were working again, miners in the Pechora coalfield in the far north, and in the Pavlograd and Voroshilovgrad areas to the west and north of Donetsk remained out, local officials said.

Jardaneh, Nabulsi explain policy, measures, rescheduling of debts

Dinar stability CBJ's priority

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi Monday revealed that an agreement that Jordan had reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) calls for one stable exchange rate system for the Jordanian dinar and that currency stability was the CBJ's top priority which will be implemented through repeated market intervention at varying amounts and unannounced timings among other measures warranted by developments.

At a press conference, Nabulsi ridiculed Israeli reports that Jordan was considering issuing a new currency instead of the dinar and that Jordan was currently printing foreign currencies and dinars to flood the market.

The tone of confidence and the relaxed mood of Nabulsi and Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh during the press conference they jointly held Monday at the CBJ premises were stronger and more cogent than the repeated denials that the two top financiers voiced against "street" perception of Jordan's monetary stability and economic soundness.

In an atmosphere of frankness and eagerness to precisely and unambiguously clarify the financial situation of the Kingdom, Nabulsi announced that during the last couple of months, the Central Bank had built up foreign currency liquidity from a low of \$20 to \$30 million to nearly \$200 million, excluding foreign currency receivables and other assets like gold.

Minister Jardaneh added that Jordan's monetary management of spending, building up foreign currency reserves, fixing priorities and settling obligations were

being conducted at the highest degree of discipline.

Jardaneh revealed that, contrary to the legal ceiling of internal borrowing which is fixed at JD 145 million, the government had credits amounting to JD 300 million in 1987 from local sources but the internal borrowing would not exceed JD 100 million this year.

Regarding foreign borrowing, the minister said that Jordan would not be needing large loans in the coming few years and that any new fresh credits would settle due repayments without having to dip into the government's reserves.

Outlining the foreign debt position before and after the recent rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club, Jardaneh said that Jordan's foreign debt at the end of 1988 stood at \$8.3 billion of which \$7.2 billion was outstanding and the rest was undrawn by that time. He emphasised that the \$1.1 billion difference was earmarked for development projects.

He explained that out of the total debt, Jordan was to pay foreign government and banks a total of \$1.2 billion during 1989, and a total of \$1.4 billion during 1990 (instalments of \$843 million and interest of \$370 million in 1989 and instalments of \$882 million and \$397 million interest in 1990).

The above-mentioned aggregate debt for 1989 and 1990 involves two parties: Foreign governments grouped in the Paris Club and Arab and foreign commercial banks and funds grouped in the London Club of creditor institutions.

The rescheduling agreement, which was reached with the Paris Club last week, took into consideration settling import payments

of approximately \$2.6 million in 1989 and \$2.7 million in 1990 and building foreign currency reserves. After such allowances and noting the ongoing process of incoming and outgoing financial transactions, the payments found in need for rescheduling amounted to \$656 million in 1989 and \$622 million in 1990.

Assuming that the London Club would next month reschedule the instalments but not the interest of the commercial portion, which stands at about 19 per cent of the total debt, then the overall amounts under rescheduling become \$696 million for 1989 and \$677 million for 1990 which means that Jordan would "save" on payments more than six per cent and eight per cent during the mentioned two years.

According to the terms of the accord with the Paris Club, Jordan's 1989-90 debt will be repaid over 10 to 11 years beginning Sept. 30, 1994 or 1995 in semi-annual instalments upto 1999 or 2000.

The five-year grace period (1989-1994) will be subject to interest, which, with interest over the new repayment tenor, was described by Jardaneh as concessionary.

He said Jordan seeks "comparable" treatment from the London Club, noting that a drop in interest rates on foreign currencies would affect the commercial portion of Jordan's debt by easing the burden.

Classifying Jordan's debt, Jardaneh said that most of the foreign loans were governmental or government-guaranteed and that the amounts owed to the Paris Club constitute 43 per cent of the total foreign loans of which 32 per cent are developmental and granted on easy terms.

(Continued on page 2)

Uno resigns; turning point seen in Japan

TOKYO (Agencies) — Prime Minister Souseki Uno Monday resigned after his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) suffered overwhelming election defeat and lost control of a house of parliament for the first time in 34 years. The losses in Sunday's balloting for half the 252 seats in parliament's upper house followed sex and money scandals and an unpopular new tax.

Uno, in office less than two months, said he hoped a successor could be found "promptly" and that he would stay in office until then.

Uno's successor must be approved by parliament, which must convene within 30 days after a parliamentary election. Analysts say they expect the next session to begin after a mid-August holiday.

Analysts said Sunday's election was a turning point which might lead to a genuine two-party system. The opposition Japan Socialist Party of spirited Takako Doi, the first woman leader of a Japanese political party, emerged the big winner in Sunday's voting, taking 46 of the 126 upper house seats at stake compared to 36 won by the Liberal Democrats.

Other opposition parties all suffered losses, except for the Rengo labour coalition, affiliated to the Socialist Party, which shot up from one seat to 12.

"It's an absolute victory for them (the Socialists)," said Professor Kumiko Inoguchi of Sophia University. "The only mistake they made was not to run more candidates."

"It looks like the initial stages of a two-party system," he said. The heat is now on for the Socialists to perform in what is seen as their best shot at power in

the general election, which could be held as early as September.

Harried LDP executives began a search for a new premier with no clear heirs in sight.

Masayoshi Ito, a revered party elder who was actively courted to replace Uno's predecessor Noboru Takeshita, told reporters he would refuse the premiership again.

"I've already refused to be prime minister," Ito said. "That has not changed."

Ito said Uno alone was not responsible for his party's debacle. "There were plenty of people responsible for the LDP's defeat. I feel sorry for Uno," he said.

Uno told reporters Monday that Japanese domestic and foreign policy would remain unchanged despite the hiatus. The upper house is a rubber-stamp body less powerful than the lower house. It can only delay lower house legislation, but has no powers to propose new legislation.

Doi said her party's first priority would be to pass a bill in the upper house abolishing the sales tax. Such a bill likely would fail in the 512-seat lower house, where the Liberal Democrats hold 293 seats, but a standoff over the issue could add to pressure for early elections for the lower chamber.

Loss of control in the lower house, for which elections legally need not be held until July 1990, could threaten the governing party's hold on power for the first time since it was formed in 1955.

About 65 per cent of Japan's 90.3 million eligible voters cast ballots in the election, reflecting strong feelings over issues affecting their everyday lives.

Women, who surpassed men voters by more than one per cent,

were particularly unhappy about the new sales tax, poll-takers said. The tax, levied on nearly all purchases, was bulldozed through parliament last year despite an opposition boycott.

Farmers, a traditional source of LDP support, opposed the government's liberalisation of agricultural import regulations, demanded by the United States. The stock and sex scandals also eroded the Liberal Democrats' popularity.

"I really believe that this was a people's revolution coming from the kitchen," said Kazuo Shinsaka, a Rengo candidate who won.

A record 146 women ran in the election, and their contrast with "old boy" politicians was dubbed the "Madonna factor" by the Japanese media. Forty parties, including many one-issue "mini-parties," took part, also a record. "One result of the election is that Japanese politicians from now on will have to pay more attention to women," said Seishuro Sato, professor of political science at Tokyo University.

Socialist policy previously called for Japan to disband its military and scrap the U.S.-Japan security treaty, under which about 64,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Japan.

Party leaders now say they only seek to revise the treaty. However, Doi and others have said all U.S. warships entering Japanese ports should be inspected and denied entry if they are carrying nuclear arms.

The losses registered by the pro-business LDP sent prices higher on the Tokyo stock exchange and the Japanese yen climbed against the U.S. dollar. Analysts said the market had adjusted earlier to the anticipated loss.

مكتبة الأمل

U.S. Jews organise to urge Israel-PLO talks

But the Jewish Peace Lobby congratulated Baker on the

The new lobby described the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians as "a conflict between two nationalisms that have sought their fulfillment within the same piece of territory" — *The New York Times*.

Gals' claims could not be immediately confirmed.

In a statement released after the news conference, the government said, "the U.S. has been

"But there is no other way. As long as the communist puppet regime is there, we cannot lay down arms and destroy the sacrifices of 11 years of jihad (holy war)."

promise between Assad and Aoun," an Arab diplomat said. "Damascus has to accept less influence in Lebanon while Aoun has to acknowledge a Syrian role

"If you start a small fire nobody pays attention but if you start a big blaze everyone runs to help in case it spreads to them," the diplomat added.

BAGHDAD (R) — The body of one of three Kurdish activists shot dead in Vienna has arrived in Baghdad for burial, the Iraqi News Agency said. The agency said Mahmoud Rasoul Fadil's body was flown to the Iraqi capital Sunday night. Fadil was gunned down July 13 with the leader of Iran's Kurdish separatists Abdolrahman Qassemzari and his deputy Abdullah Ghaderi while negotiating with Iranian government envoys. An Iranian official, identified by Qassemzari's Democratic Party of Kurdistan as the personal envoy of Iran's Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, was wounded in the shootout. The Kurds said Tehran had lured Qassemzari and his colleagues into a trap. Austrian police last week issued warrants for the arrest of two Iranians, Amir Mansour Bozorgzari and Mustafa Hajjafadi. Officials in Baghdad said Fadil's family were at the airport to receive his body. Qassemzari and Ghaderi were buried last week in Paris at the Pere Lachaise cemetery, the final resting place for many exiles and the famous including composer Frederic Chopin, singer Edith Piaf and French 17th century playwright Moliere.

19:00	Island, Ankara (RU)		
19:35	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RU)		
20:40	Tripoli (RU)		
Other Flights (Terminal 2)			
11:00	Kuwait (KU)	12:25	Kuwait (KU)
12:30	Cairo (MS)	14:05	Cairo (MS)
13:00	Moscow (SU)	15:40	Moscow (SU)
17:25	Riyadh (SV)	18:40	Riyadh (SV)
17:55	Rome (AZ)	20:25	Doha (AZ)
19:00	Dubai (EK)	20:50	Dubai (EK)
20:10	Zurich, Lucerne (SR)		
01:50	London (BA)		
MARKET PRICES			
<i>Upper/lower price in f/s per kg.</i>			
Apple (golden)	300 / 150		
Apple (Kassaba)	290 / 180		
Apple (ambur)	280 / 240		
Apple (red)	840 / 700		
Banana	400 / 350		
Banana (Makassar)	300 / 300		
Banana	270 / 220		
Cabbage	80 / 40		
Corn	220 / 200		
Cauliflower	220 / 150		
Corn	200 / 120		
Cucumbers	350 / 300		
Eggplant	140 / 100		
Garlic	780 / 620		
Grape	240 / 180		
Grape (red)	260 / 160		
Lemon (yellow)	650 / 520		
Lemon (green)	300 / 250		
Marrow	380 / 220		
Onion	300 / 250		
Onion	350 / 300		
Onion (dry)	150 / 110		
Peas/pea	600 / 450		
Pepper (hot)	220 / 180		
Pepper (sweet)	180 / 120		
Potato	220 / 180		
DEPARTURES			
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights			
(Terminal 1)			
00:30	Aqaba (RJ)		
11:30	Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)		
11:40	Tripoli (RJ)		
12:10	Riyadh (RJ)		
12:10	Aden (RJ)		
12:15	Vientiane, New York (RJ)		
12:45	Rome, Madrid (RJ)		
13:00	Geneva, London (RJ)		
13:30	Frankfurt, Paris (RJ)		
13:35	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)		
20:30	Doha, Kuwait (RJ)		
20:40	Kuwait (RJ)		
20:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)		
21:00	Luxembourg (RJ)		
21:20	New Delhi (RJ)		
21:30	Cairo (RJ)		
21:35	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)		
22:30	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)		

هكذا من الأحرار

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SUDANESE ENVOY LEAVES: A Sudanese envoy who delivered a message here from Sudanese leader Omar Al Bashir left Amman for Damascus Monday morning and was seen off by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masadeh and other officials. The envoy, Faisal Abu Saleh, had delivered the message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and reassured the Regent that the Sudanese people supported the June 30 military coup which overthrew the government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi. Masadeh Sunday evening hosted a dinner at the Amman Plaza Hotel in honour of the envoy. (Petra)

RCC HOSTS JORDANIAN PLAY: The Royal Cultural Centre in Amman Monday started presenting a local Jordanian play entitled "Thamamul Thil" (Price of a Shadow) produced by a Jordanian scriptwriter. The play, which is sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and Information, will be presented at the centre until Aug. 1. The same play was presented at this summer's Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts. (Petra)

NAF DISTRIBUTES JD 22,950 IN KARAK: The National Aid Fund (NAF) in Karak Governorate distributed JD 22,950 to needy families over the past two months. The fund's director in Karak said that beneficiaries were inhabitants of Qaser, Karak and Mazar Janoubi. (Petra)

TRAINING COURSE FOR WOMEN: A training course has opened at the Labour Education Institute in Amman with the participation of women workers. Several specialists from the Ministries of Health, Social Development and the General Union of Jordanian Women will be giving lectures during the course which will last 10 days. The course tackles various labour educational topics of concern to working women. (Petra)

STUDENT TRIES TO COMMIT SUICIDE: An 18-year old female student from Ghor Al Safi, in the southern Jordan Valley region, Sunday tried to commit suicide by swallowing a large amount of medicine. The girl, identified only as (G.A.), was trying to kill herself because of her failure to pass the Tawjihi examinations. According to Al Dustour daily, the girl has been saved and was now recuperating at the hospital. (J.T.)

KHAMMASH RECEIVES ROMANIAN ENVOY: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Khammash Monday received Romanian Ambassador to Jordan Dimitrie Stanesco. They discussed means to bolster Jordanian-Romanian relations in the field of transport and telecommunications. (Petra)

NAF CHIEF RECEIVES WORLD BANK OFFICIALS: National Aid Fund (NAF) Secretary General Khalil Faouri Monday received a delegation comprising senior World Bank officials and explained the NAF's assistance to needy families and its future plans. The delegation members expressed readiness to study scopes of cooperation and support the NAF needs to cope with the poverty problem in Jordan. (Petra)

Expatriate youths begin camping near Ajloun

AJLOUN (Petra)—A total of 70 Jordanian female youths who live and study abroad have set up a week-long camping activity near Ajloun, to learn more about the country and tour places of interest.

Their camp was opened by Minister of Youth Awar Kheifat who deputised for Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The minister said in an address at the opening ceremony that the gathering of educated youth was an indication of the deep interest in their homeland and their strong desire to build bridges of confidence, understanding and affection among the youth in Jordan.

Need for potable water increasing in Amman

AMMAN (Petra)—A working paper presented to the Amman Development Council for discussion Monday revealed that the capital's need for potable water is increasing at a great rate, and that, in responses the main water resources that feed the capital city are being developed continuously.

According to the paper, Amman's inhabitants consumed a total of 74 million cubic metres of water last year, almost half of which came from sources in other governorates. The paper explained that since the beginning of 1989 the capital's total consumption of drinking water has been 34 million cubic metres and estimated that Amman's water needs will jump to 85 million cubic metres in 1990, 95 million cubic metres in 1991, and 155 million cubic metres of water by the year 2005.

The paper further reported that the average daily per person consumption of water in Shmeisani, Abdoun and the hotel areas was 150 litres. In Lurwibdeh, Jabal Hussein, Tla'a Al Ali, Ashrafieh, and Taj districts daily usage is 100 litres. Individuals in the refugee camps and outlying villages consume 50 litres on average per day. The paper also provided details about the amount of water being pumped from Al Qastal and Deir Alla to the capital and explained that a current JD 160,000 project is designed to increase the amount of water being pumped to the capital from Deir Alla. A JD 11 million project is underway to carry out maintenance work on water networks and to replace the old pipes in a bid to stem the loss of water through leakage, the report said.

A separate paper on electricity was discussed by the Development Council. It said that a total of 20 villages around the capital will be supplied with electric power during 1989. The Jordan Electric Power Company, it said, has so far supplied electricity to 126 villages in the Amman area since the start of the current five-year plan. The plan, which extends from 1986 to 1990, envisages the electrification of villages, population settlements in rural areas and the Badia regions, the paper added. It said that the power electrification schemes entail laying cables, building transformer stations, and providing constant maintenance and repair operations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

BAZAAR

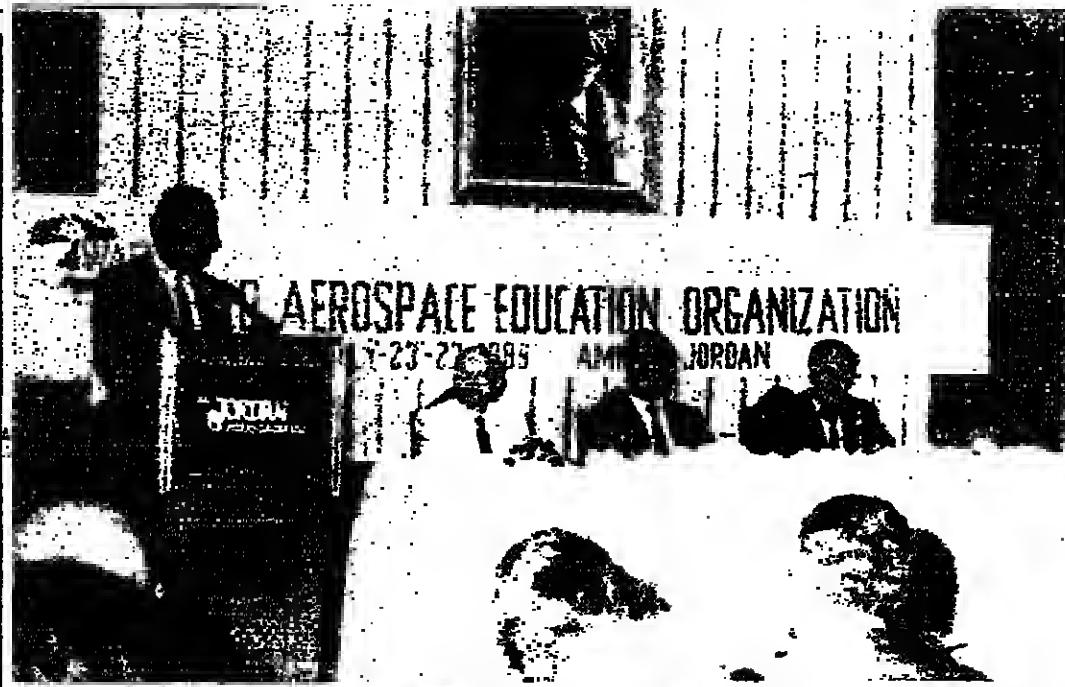
★ The annual bazaar of the Haj Nazzal Social Development Centre which includes handicrafts such as embroidery, artificial flowers, dresses, knitwear, ornaments and children's toys.

FILM

★ A scientific film entitled "A Journey Through the Solar System" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

THEATRE

★ An Arabic play entitled "Thamamul Thil" (Price of a Shadow) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday attends the opening of the sixth world congress on aerospace education in Amman (Petra photo)

Syria to return drug smuggler

DAMASCUS (J.T.)—Syria will extradite to Jordan a Jordanian accused of smuggling heroin into Egypt on a car ferry, officials said here Monday.

They said George Hanna Awwad was arrested on July 14 following a tipoff by Jordanian anti-drug authorities.

A Reuters report said Awwad was alleged to have smuggled 1.57 kilos of heroin in his car from Aqaba Port in Jordan to Nuweiba in the Egyptian Sinai in January.

The arrest and extradition of Awwad is the latest success in the Kingdom's aggressive campaign to stem the flow of drugs into and out of Jordan.

The most recent attempt to smuggle heroin into Jordan ended last week. An Egyptian smuggler died after being poisoned when four plastic bags concealing the drug, burst in his stomach soon after his arrival in Amman.

Last month a haul of hashish with a street value estimated at JD 300,000 was seized by police and customs authorities as it was being smuggled into Jordan from Syria.

The hashish was found hidden inside a lorry that arrived at the border town of Ramtha on its way into the country and was intercepted by the authorities.

In March of this year, the Public Security Department announced that it had broken the biggest drug smuggling operation in Jordan's history, seizing two and a half tonnes of hashish, and 300,000 captagon pills with a total street value of JD 2 million.

Jordan's endeavours to stem drug trafficking in the region received due praise earlier this month by the Secretary General of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

Giuseppe De Gennaro, who was here on a four-day working visit, said that Jordan's activities in combating the drug menace constituted a great service to the international community.

Jordan, Mauritania sign cultural pact

AMMAN (Petra)—Jordan and Mauritania Monday signed an executive programme for the implementation of a bilateral cultural agreement for the 1989-1991 period.

Under the terms of the agreement signed in Amman, the two countries agreed to cooperate in higher education, culture and information, archaeology and antiquities, health and social development, youth, sports and education.

Jordan will provide the Mauritanian Ministry of Education with teachers and will organise training courses for Mauritanian teachers in Jordan, according to the agreement signed at the Ministry of Planning.

The agreement also provides for an exchange of visits by university staff from both countries and joint research programmes.

The two sides will also grant each other scholarships for promising students.

Furthermore Jordan will provide paramedical training here for Mauritanian personnel.

The two countries will exchange information programmes; and Jordan undertakes to provide training to Mauritanian officials in media services and will exchange with books and publications as well as visits by folkloric troupes.

The two sides also agreed on cooperation in restoration of archaeological sites, training of personnel in running and operating museums, in social development, youth and sports affairs.

The programme was signed by Dr. Safwan Touqan the ministry's secretary general and Mauritanian Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Fadel.

Crackdown on illegal profiteers continues

AMMAN (J.T.)—A crackdown on illegal profiteers in the country, which started earlier this month, is continuing and, according to a report in a local daily, police and customs officials have flushed out nearly 200,000 cans of powdered milk hidden in a store belonging to a Jordanian firm.

The report, in Al Dustour Arabic daily, said that the milk cans were found in a warehouse belonging to the company situated on the Amman-Madaba Road and were seized by the authorities, while the proprietors were referred to the military court.

Another report said that 100 tonnes of iron were found to be hidden on a farm in Madaba district.

The crackdown by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shakir, who is also the country's

belonging to the company situated on the Amman-Madaba Road and were seized by the authorities, while the proprietors were referred to the military court.

Another report said that 100 tonnes of iron were found to be hidden on a farm in Madaba district.

The crackdown by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shakir, who is also the country's

military governor, followed public complaints about the disappearance of a number of basic commodities from store shelves.

At least 110 merchants have so far been detained and some of them stood trial for bidding these commodities or for manipulating prices.

Since the beginning of the crackdown campaign, the au-

thorities have seized huge amounts of cooking oil, powdered milk, and other staples.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masadeh said on July 16 that the government was working on amendments to the supply law, designed to grant the Ministry of Supply wider powers to control the local market and to refer violating merchants to court.

Zarqa police nab suspected murderer

ZARQA (J.T.)—A 26-year-old man identified by the police in Zarqa only as K.H.F. is reported to have killed his own father, his step mother and his three year old step brother in the course of robbing their home.

A report in the local press said that the man had an accomplice, identified only as 17-year old A.H. with whom he had been in the habit of committing thefts and robberies in Zarqa and other areas of Jordan.

According to the report, the suspected killer, who had a long police record, had planned with his accomplice to rob his own father's home; and together they

were reported to have carried out the criminal act Saturday evening during the family's absence.

The report said that the two robbers stole JD 720 and a number of cheques from the house shortly before the return of the family.

Upon their return, said the report, the son attacked his father with a dagger killing him immediately, and then stabbed his young wife who ran out to the roof of the house where he followed her and killed her.

Later he returned to their son and killed him and cut off his head, but did not harm his six year old

step-sister who he gagged and left in the room next to the three bodies, the report continued.

The report said that 24 hours later, the suspected criminal and his friend were apprehended by the Zarqa police on suspicion of committing thefts elsewhere and were detained for questioning.

But, it added, that suspicious neighbours of the murdered family in the meantime reported to the police that the house was lit day and night and the head of the family had failed to use his pick up truck for a second consecutive day. This prompted the local police to move into action that

led to the discovery of the bodies and the criminals' subsequent confession.

Meanwhile, a report in Al Ra'i daily said that a 120-year-old man has died in Ajloun after staging a hunger strike following an incident in which his 30-year-old wife had suffered severe injuries.

The report said that the wife sustained burns in the incident and was admitted to hospital for treatment.

But, it said, that the husband, identified only as (AMM) insisted on not eating until his wife "is able to sit at table" with him again.



Arab cultural attaches visit University of Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.)—Cultural attaches at the embassies of Iraq, Qatar, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, North Yemen, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Egypt in Jordan Monday called at the University of Jordan and met with its President Mahmoud Al Samra. They congratulated the president on assuming his new

post and wished him success in serving his country and promoting the university's activities and programmes. Samra assumed his post earlier this month when his predecessor Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali was appointed advisor to His Majesty King Hussein in accordance with a Royal Decree.

Congress on aerospace education opens

Crown Prince stresses importance of ensuring mankind's welfare

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN—While mankind stands to gain from further explorations and achievements in space, the first responsibility of those involved in such work is to ensure the welfare of mankind itself and future generations, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, told the sixth world congress on aerospace education Monday.

"Through science and technology, our understanding of the issues related to ecology and society has matured, providing us with a basis for choice in the direction of development," the Regent, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein in inaugurating the congress, said.

"The increased capacity of scientific knowledge to guide and create technological growth can provide us with the means to choose our future rather than find ourselves in it," he said. "So, our basic challenge is our incorporation of humanitarian concerns in all our endeavours for the interest and welfare of people. Our first responsibility is to our children and future generations: to ensure that they have a future free of disasters wrought by man."

The World Aerospace Education Organisation has four main objectives:

— To provide an international forum for the exchange of information and ideas for organisations, firms, and individuals interested in aerospace education;

— To promote and practice the methods and practices in aerospace education and to establish international standards related to aerospace education;

— To identify emerging trends in aerospace education in the industrial nations and foster their advancement in developing nations;

— To raise the level of awareness and understanding of the people of the importance of aerospace education for today and tomorrow.

In his address Monday, the Regent stressed the role of the developing world in aerospace education for cultural development, which is the theme of the sixth world congress. "The infusion of dynamic new technologies has spurred the growth of resources and brought many developing nations more visibly into the world cultural and economic scene."

The Regent also stressed that "since the assessment of the earth's total environment is one of the major tasks of the space programme, this task should not be reserved for a single nation."

The Regent referred to Arab participation in the space programme, which was initiated by Prince Sultan Ibn Salman Al Saud of Saudi Arabia in 1985, the first Arab astronaut, who took part in the 18th mission of the space shuttle Discovery.

"Prince Sultan thus helped in the launching of Arabsat, the telecommunications satellite owned by the Arab League. The significance to the Arab World of Arabsat was multifold since it provided education, information, and communications throughout the Arab World, the Crown Prince said.

Syrian Air Force Lt. Col. Mohammad Fagis, who participated in the Soyuz TM 3 Soviet space mission, was to serve his country by researching and documenting information on Syrian forests, lakes, water and mineral resources while flying above Syrian air space, the Regent said.

He ended his opening remarks by stressing that "our first responsibility is to our children and future generations: to ensure that they have a future free of disasters wrought by man. It is also necessary that they do not inherit a planet whose environment has been substantially diminished or irreparably destroyed."

The importance of gearing

away from short term benefits "ensuring that the use of space is in the interest of the human race and our common planet, Earth."

Chairman of the WAEU Kamal Naguib stressed in his opening remarks the need for securing air transportation. He welcomed the 28 speakers who have come from 19 countries to address the organisation on the many arenas of air and space travel.

He hailed the return of the organisations conference to the Arab World, where it had its first conference 10 years ago.

One of the highlights of the sixth world congress is the presence, for the first time of two veteran cosmonauts from the Soviet Union.

Ali Ghandour, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Royal Jordanian, told the gathering that civil air transport had been a model for international cooperation. He pointed out that "civil aviation is high on the agenda of both the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the Cooperation Council (GCC)."

The two councils aim to "provide the framework for developing civil air transport to its highest potential," he said. "Regionalism in civil air transport, which I have advocated all along, is a lately taking root and could present a worthy example to the rest of the world," he said.

Ghandour also stressed that "beyond a responsibility, we have a duty, towards the maintenance of world order." He also noted that recent developments indicate that Western attitudes towards the Third World had become more positive and that civil aviation was likely to become a significant beneficiary of "Western largesse."

Mohammad I. Kazem, personal representative of the director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and director of the regional office of education, stressed the educational angle of the conference, saying that "when we in UNESCO talk about the universalisation of primary education, we are equally and at the same time talking about renewal and innovation in education."

Stressing the importance of man's knowledge of the environment, Kazem said: "Earth is tied up with what is happening with the skies and in the skies. The knowledge, the technology, the structure of human beings, individuals as well as communities, their personalities, values, behaviour are so much affected with aerospace education directly or indirectly."

Seminar on stone, sand quarries in Jordan opens

AMMAN (Petra)—A seminar on stone and sand quarries in Jordan was opened here Monday by Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh who outlined in a speech the development and the production of quarries in the country for construction purposes. Zawaideh said that further efforts are needed and more research is earnestly sought to help develop the quarry business and contribute to construction efforts.

The three-day seminar is organised by the Jordan Engineers Association and is being attended by 100 engineers and specialists in the construction business in Jordan.

The association president, Laith Shbeilat also addressed the opening session, underlining the need for Jordan to depend on its own resources and potential in an

effort to overcome the tough economic circumstances at present.

"The success of such a project depends largely on adherence to various industries to the national standards and specifications," Shbeilat noted.

Discussions and a total of 17 working papers to be reviewed by the participants will deal with the proper measures to be taken in exploiting stone, lime, brick and rock and sand in the country's 25 quarries, according to Shbeilat.

The participants will also focus attention on the general situation of quarries in Jordan, organising stone quarrying operations, spreading awareness among various firms involved in the business with regard to safety precautions, and effects of their operations on the environment in the country.

Conference on literary criticism starts at Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra, J.T.)—A conference on literary criticism got underway at Yarmouk University Monday with the participation of university professors and researchers in 12 Arab countries, including Jordan.

The three-day conference was opened formally by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad who said that the conference served as a very useful gathering for intellectuals, writers and professors from various parts of the Arab World.

The participants "will no doubt contribute towards enriching this form of literary discussion and writing; and benefit the whole Arab World," Assad said in his speech.

Other speeches were delivered by University President Mohammad Hamdan, Dr. Husam Khatib from Damascus University and Dr. Ibrahim Sinjilawi who chairs a committee that prepares for the conference—the third of its kind to be organised by Yarmouk University.

The participants came from Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Kuwait, Libya, Algeria, North Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Jordan.

The first session that followed the opening addresses discussed five working papers dealing with literary criticism submitted by professors from Iraq, Kuwait, Syria and Qatar.

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How valid is the Tawjihi?

AS STUDENTS and parents celebrate or mourn the results of the 1989 Tawjihi exams, many scholars are questioning the entire basis of this high school general examination and are wondering whether its results constitute a true reflection of the students' intellect and abilities. Such sceptics cite, for example, the experience of universities — at home and abroad — that indicate that there is no correlation between the marks achieved in the Tawjihi examination and achievements at the university level. If these propositions are proven correct, then there is something fundamentally wrong about the Tawjihi examination which perhaps arbitrarily determines the future of our young generations.

Other educators also accuse the Tawjihi programme of being inherently artificial insofar as it makes sacrosanct the memorisation of educational materials instead of developing students' analytical thinking. Still others argue that whereas some curricular subjects like English have not changed since 1975, others, such as social sciences, have been amended for the worse.

To be fair, there are many educationalists who maintain that, given the economic conditions of the country, the Tawjihi programme of education is the best that our country can afford. Their defence of the results of the Tawjihi as a proper barometer of the educational skills of Jordanian students stems from the conviction that there is no perfect way to gauge the abilities and knowledge of students and that every system of examination is flawed in one way or another regardless of how much one tries to perfect it.

The truth probably lies somewhere in between these two schools of thought on the Tawjihi general examination and the scholastic curricula on which it is based. Accordingly, just as the so-called high grade scorers in the Tawjihi may not glow too much over their achievements, the average and poor achievers have the right not to be labelled failures in view of the many imperfections that contaminate the entire Tawjihi programme. If Jordanian universities can be convinced to employ their own entrance examinations, then no matter what grades an applicant scores in the Tawjihi, the "poor" and the "average" achievers will profit from an additional chance that is hopefully formulated on standards better suited for university education.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies Monday dealt with the Israeli cabinet's full endorsement of the Shamir's election plan following an 18-day political crisis which threatened to topple the coalition government. Al Ra'i daily said that with this endorsement Israel has thus announced its clear message to the world in general and the Arabs and Palestinians in particular. The message says that the Israelis are adamant in their position, they want peace according to their own terms and that they do not have any regard whatsoever to the world community, U.N. resolutions or international principles and laws. The endorsement means that the Palestinians should accept what Israel has prepared for them and should succumb to the Zionists' will and occupation of their homeland, the paper continued. Shamir's plan provides for Israel to hold on to all the Palestinian lands without giving any rights to the Arabs who had fought for 40 years to regain their freedom and their homeland, the paper noted. It said that since the Palestinian people are determined to regain their rights the Shamir plan is bound to end in failure, regardless of the consensus it had secured at the cabinet meeting, and the support it guaranteed from the Labour party.

Al Dustour daily said that the Israeli cabinet's endorsement of the final version of the Shamir election plan in the occupied territories ended all manoeuvres and political wrangling between the Likud and the Labour party, and exposed to the world the real intentions of the Zionists no matter what they do to disguise their evil objectives. But, said the paper, the cabinet's decision has done nothing to bring peace with the Arabs any inch closer, and did not succeed in giving any momentum to the peace efforts, despite Washington's optimistic statements about the situation. The cabinet's decision of endorsement will most certainly not succeed in making the elections process a reality because the Palestinians cannot be subdued, nor can they be satisfied with anything short of their total freedom and legitimate rights, the paper noted. What remains to be seen, said the paper, is whether Washington will now embark on a step of reformulating its own stand with regard to the situation in the Middle East in the light of Israel's intransigent position.

Sawt Al Sham daily, which dwelt on the same topic, expected that the United States next move will focus on persuading the PLO to accept the Shamir plan. The paper said that the PLO should be very careful in replying to Washington's moves and ideas lest it might fall in a trap. There can be no cause for optimism for the Arabs in the light of the new developments in Israel because the amended Shamir plan means that the Arabs must accept a de facto solution, and must succumb to the terms and conditions of the Zionists, said the paper. The paper called on the Palestinians to remain vigilant and be on their guard since the United States could easily adopt the new amended Israeli plan which is considered detrimental to Arab interests and rights.

Rajiv Gandhi — prime minister versus man who would be king

By Sharon Herbaugh
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Standing on the red sandstone ramparts of the Mogul emperors' fort, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi invokes the slogans and names of ghosts — his mother and grandfather.

His message to the huge crowd below is clear — only he, as heir to a democratically elected dynasty, can hold together a national fabric whose delicate threads are being pulled by ethnic, social and religious divisions.

In the next parliamentary election, which must be held by the end of January, Gandhi will be seeking a second mandate against a fractious coalition led by Viswanath Pratap Singh, a former ally respected for his honesty but uprooted as a national leader.

The 44-year-old prime minister's closest aides hint he probably won't wait that long.

Gandhi is keeping everyone on tenterhooks while embarking on a campaign spree that has covered 50,000 kilometres by road and air since June and made his personal pitch to more than 10 million of the 500 million potential voters.

India's founding fathers envisioned a multiparty system, but only one nationally viable party has emerged — the Congress Party. Synonymous with the independence struggle, it has been guided by the strong will of Jawaharlal Nehru, the iron fist of his daughter, Indira Gandhi, and now by her son, Rajiv.

Only once since India gained independence from Britain 42 years ago have voters replaced the Congress with another government. In 1977, Mrs. Gandhi was defeated after she lifted an 18-month state of emergency imposed to quell opposition. After 22 months of chaotic rule

by the rival Janata Party, Mrs. Gandhi was reelected.

This time, political analysts say, there is no major issue such as the emergency to galvanise public protest and forge a strong unity among an opposition split by dissension and conflict.

"If Indira Gandhi could be voted back into power after all that she did during the emergency just because people were fed up seeing a squabbling opposition rule the country, Rajiv Gandhi surely stands a very good chance of winning a second mandate, albeit a slender one," said Bhupendra Sen Gupta, an analyst with the Centre For Policy Research.

Both Gandhi and V.P. Singh, each at one time hailed as "Mr. Clean," are now perceived by many voters with the same disillusionment — aloof, politically inept and surrounded by corrupt people.

"The picture is not clear. Many who make decisions feel the prime minister and the ruling party have become too brazen," said Bashiruddin Ahmad, a political scientist who tracks voting patterns. "But with his family's charisma and background, even if he does bad things, he has a far greater chance of staying in power than anyone else."

In December 1984, Gandhi scored a landslide victory that surpassed those of his mother and grandfather.

Slow changes

Soft-spoken and reserved, the former airline pilot helped revive the country's confidence after his mother's murder less than two months earlier. He captivated the people with his vision of India's future — a streamlined economy, modernisation and openness to Western technology, less tension with neighbouring coun-

tries and easing of the bureaucratic and political corruption that plagued daily life.

But the changes have been slow to materialise. Social differences between classes, farmer, and communal conflicts. Gandhi's popularity has dropped so dramatically that even his advisers suggest he and the Congress Party may only squeak back into power.

In the cities and the countryside, there is dismay at the high-handed style of the Western-educated prime minister, who has dismissed several state governments and brought them, at least temporarily, federal rule. He is seen as increasingly resorting to his mother's street-fighting political tactics without her finesse and especially her sensitivity to the poor.

The main strength of Gandhi's government is its offers stability, in sharp contrast to the coalition of the four parties struggling to unite under the banner of Janata Dal (People's Party).

"He (Gandhi) acts more like a maharajah (emperor)," said Priya Sinha, an 18-year-old college student from rural Bihar state.

"But we don't have much of a choice. People have to vote for a stable government and outside the Congress, there isn't anyone who can do that," said Sinha, one of an estimated 50 million young people who will be eligible to cast ballots this year since the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18.

Among his supporters, the 38-year-old Singh is known as "rajah" or king, a reference to the title he was to inherit from his father before Indira Gandhi outlawed what she considered the remnants of a feudal era.

When Rajiv Gandhi assumed power, Singh was one of the so-called "whiz kids" the

prime minister recruited to help guide India's 880 million people into the 21st century.

As finance and defence minister, Singh had broad powers to clean up clandestine deals by Indian businesses and launched a series of highly publicised tax raids.

But he went too far in his investigations into lucrative foreign arms deals in which millions of dollars in kickbacks allegedly were paid to some of Gandhi's close associates or landed in Congress Party coffers. The allegations by newspapers and opposition politicians have never been proved, and Singh eventually was expelled from the party.

He immediately was embraced by opposition parties as the person who could cure the country's ills, cleanse Indian politics and usher in a new era of hope. But the euphoria has vanished, and his wave of support is slowly receding.

A recent poll in the respected news magazine India Today said two-thirds of the 11,000 voters surveyed were convinced an opposition government would not last a full five-year term.

Some analysts say Singh has strong personal ambitions but is short on political will when it comes to making tough decisions. That is reinforced daily by newspaper headlines of the internecine battles between different factions and eventually may tilt the balance in Gandhi's favour.

"V.P. Singh is a loner in a crowd, simply too individualist to carry a team along," said Prabhu Chawla, senior editor of India Today. Chawla also said Singh's "evangelical obsession with morality" could be a hindrance because he actually may appear too righteous.

Grim vision for the Jewish state

PALESTINE AND ISRAEL: The Uprising and Beyond

By David McDowall
I.B. Tauris, London; £14.95

IT IS January 1, 2001, and Israel is in more than its usual state of uproar. The Arab majority of northern Israel is staging another day of violent demonstrations in its six-month-old uprising against the Israeli government. Armed Jewish activists are roaming Galilee mounting random attacks on Palestinians. Field Marshal Ariel Sharon, the hard-liner just elected prime minister at 72, is facing a rising tide of calls for Palestinian political parties to be banned and for Arabs to be transferred out of Israel.

This vision of a future breakdown of law, order and democracy in the Jewish state may not be as far-fetched as it seems. Although David McDowall is too sober a writer to spell it out directly, such a chain of events — or something quite like it — is heavily signposted in his new book on the conflict between Arabs and Jews in Palestine. It makes timely, prescient and above all depressing reading.

McDowall, a British former relief worker who has written

widely-praised volumes about the Palestinians and the Kurds for the Minority Rights Group, takes as point of departure in this part-historical, part-political work the 19-month revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

With a logic that is relentless as it is disturbing, he describes how the *Intifada* — an event he extravagantly describes as "the most important political development in the history of the Palestinian people so far" — has overturned conventional wisdom about Arab-Israeli peace-making. And he elaborates, in terms which both Israeli right-wingers and Palestinian leftists would understand, on the nature of the dilemmas facing the state of Israel as a result.

This is among the first of an expected stream of books on the uprising. It was begun before Palestinians started confronting Israeli troops in the streets and refugee camps of the occupied territories, and relies less on direct reportage than on thoughtful reading and statistical interpretation.

The message, bluntly, is that if neat solutions to this conflict were imagined, they certainly do not exist any longer, and that if there ever was a Middle East "peace process" (MacDowall

doubts that this is what we should call the American damage limitation exercises of the last 20 years) it is likely to be all the more difficult to reconstruct.

The old prescription — U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 providing for an exchange of territory for peace — was doomed to irrelevance, he says, by successive Israeli governments' refusal to contemplate a more or less full withdrawal to the pre-1967 border. It has become even less relevant today as a result of entrenched Jewish settlement in the occupied territories and growing radicalisation of Israel's own sizeable Palestinian minority.

Nor, given the known positions of both main Israeli parties on the central issues in an eventual negotiation, does McDowall put much faith in the emergence of a truly viable two-state solution. Achieving such a settlement would require genuine Israeli recognition of the Palestinians' security and economic needs, as well as vice versa. Even assuming a Palestinian entity were to emerge, the social and economic problems — resettling refugees, caring for a rapidly increasing population with limited land and water resources — could easily overwhelm it.

McDowall frankly admits that he has no idea whether there is a solution or what it might be. But

"Palestine and Israel" is less a counsel of despair than a cry of alarm aimed at the idea that the conflict can be settled through half measures.

Perhaps the most troubling long-range issue it raises, for example, is one which even people on the Israeli left would sooner not think about for it raises the most sensitive questions about the nature of the Jewish state: the status of Israel's growing number of Arab citizens. Within Israel proper, the Palestinian population is already 17 per cent of the total. On present trends, it could be close to a quarter of the total by 2005, and northern Israel could be two thirds Palestinian by 2010.

As their numbers grow, the Arabs of Israel are less and less likely to tolerate being treated as second class citizens with the right to vote but little influence on mainstream politics, and comparatively limited access to economic and budgetary resources. McDowall's conclusion is that without moves to partition Palestine and to improve the lot of its own Palestinian minority, Israel could eventually be facing inter-communal strife on both sides of the "green line," with ugly consequences for its own society — The Guardian.

Andrew Gowers

OPEN FORUM

Killing streets

DID YOU ever have the urge to commit suicide in spite of yourself? If you still haven't, you will have that feeling every time you want to cross a street in Amman.

Watching the cars go by on Queen Noor street, which one assumes is one of the busiest streets in Amman, and watching the poor pedestrians trying to cross it, is for one an experience in apoplexy even though one is not attempting to cross the street oneself. You find a person and another with a child standing at one end of the street looking against the flowing traffic waiting for a moment of stillness to cross. ZOOM the cars go by. They are driven at high speed as if the road is a highway.

Potently, the pedestrians wait. The mother clutching at her child's hand while holding her bag tightly with the other hand waits for AL FARA. An attempt is made at crossing the street as one leg tentatively moves and ZOOM a car that wasn't there a moment ago races down the road. Another attempt is made when the traffic is clearer and, before they know it, a screeching brake and impatient honking score them back to their first place.

Still they have to cross and with another look at the traffic that has cleared for a few seconds they literally run for their lives. More cars race toward them honking. The mother, still clutching at the child's hand and screaming at him in anxiety so as not to let go, runs in between the cars until they reach the "island". They wait breathlessly for the next car or cars passing in the opposite direction and then go through the same jolting experience again.

This is but one example of one street. Throughout town, were it downtown or a small street, this feeling is experienced. It is not only lack of pedestrian crossings — there should be very high penalties for cars that cross while people are walking — but it is also people's attitudes that should be corrected. At various social gatherings traffic accidents are mentioned and there is talk about "those lazy pedestrians who walk slowly while crossing the street," as if they are supposed to be cats with nine lives, as is said in Arabic in order to survive an accident with a racing car. We cannot put an end to accidents, which ordinarily and unfortunately occur in Jordan as frequently as any country in the world, but we can lessen their number by having pedestrian crossings. This will teach drivers to appreciate the value of the pedestrian's life while he appreciates the understanding and respect of the driver towards his life. In short, it will teach both respect for human life.

"The human being is the most precious in Jordan," a great saying by His Majesty. But apparently, while crossing the street, the human being is regarded by his fellow man as a non-being.

Norma Shalhoub

Bush riding high but still cautious

By Gene Gibbons
Renter

WASHINGTON — George Bush, riding high in the polls halfway through his first year in office, is careful not to gloss about the remarkably smooth ride he has enjoyed as U.S. president.

"There are things that I'd like to have seen resolved, particularly on the legislative side," he told reporters as he flew home from a recent trip to Europe.

The period since Bush took office on January 20 shows a few rough spots although it is seen as an unusually placid one in Washington politics — and a soft one for the new president.

On the domestic front, the budget deficit remains a major headache, and some economists foresee a recession next year.

Bush's sweeping plan to rescue the savings and loan industry from insolvency has yet to win final congressional approval.

Another early setback was the rejection of his choice for defence secretary, John Tower, amid allegations of indiscreet conduct. But Bush's performances in the international arena have won compliments after initial criticism he was moving too slowly.

"The president has done quite well and deserves credit," says House Speaker Thomas Foley, leader of the Democratic opposition in Congress.

Bush, who currently has a higher job approval rating than the enormously popular Ronald Reagan had at the same point in his presidency, seems to have survived complaints he lacks the

imagination and flair of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The spotlight for a long time was on Gorbachev alone in the centre ring," says political analyst Norman Ornstein. "This was the guy changing the world. Now the spotlight isn't on Gorbachev alone — George Bush is sharing it with him."

Bush's extensive and much-publicised travels have been a factor in boosting his image.

He has visited 12 countries since his inauguration, asserted leadership at the NATO summit in Brussels in May, and is generally credited with defusing a nuclear policy row within the Western alliance.

The recent tour of Poland and Hungary, where he proclaimed a vision of a "new world" in which the iron curtain dividing Europe would be torn down, also won some applause.

"I think he had quite a successful trip and I congratulate him on it," said senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, who did all he could to prevent Bush's election when Bentsen was the 1988 Democratic vice presidential nominee.

The fate of Bentsen's ticket mate — Bush's erstwhile presidential rival, Michael Dukakis — neatly underscores the difference a year can make in power politics.

One year ago the Massachusetts governor accepted his party's nomination in a triumphal personal climax to its nominating convention. He held a 17-point lead in opinion polls, had a united party behind him and looked about to sweep a defensive and faltering Bush right off the field.

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Raghda — A journey to the big screen

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — A rising star in the Egyptian cinema, Raghda — her first name and the only one she wants to use — brings to the screen unusual poise and class. Few actresses can speak with as much eloquence the difficult language that's classical Arabic, which has given her a series of roles on television and on the big screen. Mostly she has been type-cast as an intellectual or asked to play characters from the classics, but in her portrayals there is a hint that a talented director could unleash much more diversity and passion from this budding talent.

When you meet her in person, the first overwhelming impression is that the many photos taken of her do not do justice to her beauty. Heavy bands of dark golden hair frame a face where eyes the colour of clear aquamarine gleam with a personality as intense as it is calm on the surface.

She is sitting in a quiet corner of an apartment in Cairo's well-to-do Zamalek quarter where filming is progressing, oblivious to the television technicians rushing around, arranging lights and microphones as a storm rages outside. The palm trees in the garden below bend and shake, and the windows rattle while a pale imitation of daylight blends all the objects and furniture inside the apartment into a grayish mass.

Maybe affected by the ghostly light, Raghda starts talking about her childhood, which did not leave her with many happy memories. "In a way, I did not have a childhood, or a family. From the start the family unit was broken up: my father gone, my mother buried under the work and responsibility of rearing children by herself! My older brothers tried to fulfill the role of head of the family. For me there were no dolls or play, I mostly remember a feeling of sadness at watching my mother struggle by herself, unable to cope with two many children."

While her voice seems indifferent, the face registers tension

and some bitterness. The wounds are still there, but she has built inner strength from this early handicap. As suddenly as the memories came, she resolutely shuts out the past with a toss of her golden mane. It was the same will-power which brought her to Cairo in the late 1970s after she completed literary studies at the university of Halab, the city in Syria where she was born.

In Cairo she wanted to seek a graduate degree in classical Arabic, but she also found the warmth of a family relationship thanks to a female friend of her mother who welcomed Raghda as a daughter. "It was a period of my life where everything seemed possible, all the dreams could come true," Raghda said. "But I was not even thinking about becoming an actress; all I wanted was to be introduced into literary circles and meet the famous Egyptian writers to try to learn how to become one." One of her first jobs was to write for "Al Hilal" magazine, under the guidance of writers and novelists such as the late Fomil Lahib, Sabri Aboul Magd and Hussein Noemeh.

It was Lahib who told her one day that a well-known television director named Mohammed Salem was looking for a young woman fluent in classical Arabic for a TV series he was preparing for distribution throughout the Arab world. "My task was to read texts which would serve as the link between the different segments of the series. I needed money, as all students do, so my only question was 'how much will I earn?' For the promised sum of 9000 pounds (at the time the equivalent of about \$10,000) she did her part in the 30 episodes, but she is still waiting to be paid.

No matter, she quips, the main thing is that she had learned her way to the studios! Another director soon offered her a part which had been difficult to cast — a blond actress with clear skin and light-coloured eyes who, again was quite fluent in classical Arabic. "I can say that I came to the movies — cinema and television — through my knowledge of

the Arabic language and my diction," Raghda noted with pride. It was only later that producers and directors began to notice the real acting talent of the young woman.

As soon as she was convinced of her acting potential, Raghda gave herself to this unexpected career will all the passion and dedication she invests into all that matters to her. She put aside her literary ambitions to devote all her energies to improving her skills. She took voice lessons, worked on her diction and enunciation and also attended acting classes. "I worked on becoming familiar with all the technical environment of the studios — lights, cameras, mikes, the stage. I was taking very seriously the learning of a profession I enjoyed more and more every day," she explained.

Very soon she had the opportunity to play in the famous movie "Le Paon," (El Taous) directed by Kamal el Chelki which was selected for the Kamarina festival in Italy in 1982. This unusual event showcased movies from Mediterranean countries, including Arab as well as Jewish productions. In "Le Paon," Raghda played the young and innocent sister of a married woman whose husband falls madly in love with the girl and commits what is almost the perfect crime to be with her.

Another of her favourite roles is that of Badreia, a character in a screen version of a book from Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz' Trilogy. The director was Youssef Marzouk, who is now finishing a television series based on the Trilogy for distribution throughout the Arab world and possibly in India and the Philippines. Says Raghda: Marzouk "is a very, very good director, maybe the best when it comes to understanding Mahfouz and translating his work for a TV audience. Working with him was an unforgettable experience, and I hope I will have the opportunity to do so again."

Just as the public was ready to cast Raghda into the part of a screen goddess, she surprised ev-

erybody by putting her career on hold for a while to give preference to her personal life. "One day I met a young man, and four months later we were married," she explained with a smile. "I loved him, but upmost were feelings of complete trust and friendship. That's why I did not hesitate when he asked me to become his wife. You see, love can be only a glitter instead of the real thing, but friendship and trust are riches that endure." From this union a baby girl was born, named Bousaina, then Raghda had a miscarriage when she was pregnant with her second child.

Although she has switched on her acting career again, Raghda likes to emphasize that she likes a quiet life. "My personal life is so calm that I am almost in a rut," she said. "My husband knows, of course, that he married an actress with all that it implies, but I do all I can so it does not disturb our life together. Even when I am filming I make a point of returning home before him so I am there waiting for him. I take care of my daughter, my house, my kitchen exactly as if there was no movie career. It's difficult, but I like challenges, I enjoy setting new goals for myself."

The indomitable spirit within colours her performances with deep hues that promise much more if she finds the proper vehicle to express her talent, and the right director. Already her professional life has been enhanced by the experience of marriage and motherhood. The Raghda who came back is more feminine, more tender, but she has yet to reveal all of herself.

The theatre offered her first role after her "return" in the play "Salome" where her portrayal of the famous courtesan won unanimous applause from Egyptian critics. "But the truth is that I prefer the cinema to the theatre," she commented. "I see myself as a movie actress. I prefer the big screen to anything else, because a movie is a durable work which won't grow old and which I will be able to see again with the same pleasure as when you reopen a

favourite book. It's not the case with television productions: they age fast and soon look dusty."

Besides finding acting enjoyable, Raghda believes that the artist has a role to play in society, and it's another challenge she wants to win, another mission waiting to be completed and yet never finished.

"I refuse to be an actress who does one movie after another without an overall sense of direction," she said. "I am looking for scenarios which are topical from a sociological point of view and which may bring solutions to the overriding concerns that people have. I have always sought to act in movies that delve into an issue, to analyse and maybe present solutions. I admit that I have not found a role with which I was fully satisfied. On the other hand, one role is not enough to set a pattern of social involvement; it must be a series of roles somehow related and which complement each other."

Is she sometimes tempted to throw her weight around and demand the rewriting of a scenario as is the privilege of great screen actors known for their temper tantrums on the set? She does not like to intervene, she said quickly, but she admits that she does not take kindly to rewrites after she has approved the dialogue for a scene. "The only time when I got mad and refused to go on filming was when an actor was bold enough to rewrite a scene (she won't name him) — imposing on me words and a new situation of which I did not approve. I found his action very objectionable and I left, which I had a right to do!"

Looking back at her young career, Raghda points out that she has not forgotten her girlhood ambitions to make a name for herself in literature. "Now I am writing again," she said. "I published a small book of poems titled 'The seasons of love,' (Mawaseem el Aeshk) — spring, summer, fall and winter: any season can be the backdrop to words of love." Writing is a hobby which provides her with a sense of release, she added, announcing



It's her proficiency in classical Arabic that led the Egyptian cinema, she also delights in Raghda to the silver screen. A rising star in writing, and being a mother.

ing the upcoming publishing of another volume. "I can express my emotions; I write when I feel joy, indignation, or pity — the feeling must be intense, it's a sort of deliverance. But my poems are not related only to my personality, they express a consciousness of reality that we all share."

Undaunted by the prospect of adding yet another facet to the character she has forged — Raghda the actress, the wife and mother, and now the writer — she calmly prepares to go back on the set. She seems to have formidable resources and unlimited patience; yet under the gloss and the perfect composure lurks a sense of fragility and heartache from

old wounds. Her public can only hope that Raghda's achievements in all her "careers" will enable her to come to terms with the pain of a lost childhood — World News Link
Editors note: Raghda was the leading in the play 'Salome', performed at this year's Jerash festival.

Japanese drug impresses doctors

By Marcia Dunn

The Associated Press
PITTSBURGH — A Japanese drug developed to fight cancerous tumors is startlingly effective in halting rejection of transplanted kidneys, say doctors in Japan who are the first to test the compound on organ recipients.

American researchers are just as impressed with 15-Deoxypergualin, also known as DSG, and expect to try it on transplant patients in a year or two.

"It's clearly very effective. Yet I think it's teaching us that there are ways to control the immune system we heretofore had not even thought possible," said Dr. Randall Morris, director of the Laboratory for Transplantation Immunology at Stanford University in California.

Among the possibilities suggested by DSG research but yet to be proven outside the laboratory are lower doses of cyclosporine, a potent anti-rejection drug fraught with side effects; routine matching of organs regardless of blood type; and longer survival of animals getting organs from other species — a step toward the day when animal organs might be transplanted into humans.

"At the very least, if it allows us to lower the dose of cyclosporine, it might be useful," said Dr. Robert Corry, chairman of surgery at the University of Iowa and president of the United Network for Organ Sharing.

Transplant pioneer Dr. Thomas E. Starzl of the University of Pittsburgh is encouraged by the Japanese findings even though he halted animal tests several years ago because of the drug's toxicity and its intravenous use.

"In the big picture, over a long

period of time, you can't give drugs intravenously so that's a limitation," but it could be useful "as a kind of bail-out on a short-term basis to control rejection," Starzl said.

"To get 100 per cent of graft survival, we must have several kinds of potent immune-suppressive drugs," said Dr. Hiroshi Amemiya, head of surgical research at the National Cardiovascular Centre in Osaka, Japan. "This is one of that kind of potent drugs."

9,123 kidney transplants

There were 9,123 kidney transplants in the United States last year, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing. Virtually all transplant recipients experience some organ rejection, but most is temporary, minor and can be controlled with drugs. Ninety-six per cent of transplanted kidneys are functioning a year after surgery if the organs come from living relatives, said Kelle Straw of UNOS, the society is 91 per cent when the kidneys come from dead strangers — as is the case in the vast majority of transplants.

DSG is a chemical byproduct of Spargalin, a substance isolated by Japanese scientists in 1981 from bacteria found in soil. Two Japanese companies launched laboratory tests in 1985, and Amemiya and others began conducting the world's first clinical trials involving transplant patients last fall.

Bristol-Myers Co. is under agreement with the Japanese firms to develop the synthetic drug for use in the United States. U.S. researchers have studied DSG as an anti-rejection agent in

animals, but it has been tested on about 90 cancer patients over the past three years. The National Cancer Institute is conducting clinical trials at the University of Texas at San Antonio and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York.

The human tests were begun after experiments showed DSG inhibited growth of tumors in mice, said Dr. Michele Christian, senior investigator in the NCI's developmental chemotherapy section. "It's hard to say whether the drug is going to be useful as an anti-cancer agent. It's too early to tell."

Amemiya reported at the American Society of Transplant Surgeons' annual meeting in Chicago last month that 30 kidney recipients at six centres in Japan were treated temporarily with DSG. The 18 males and 12 females, ranging in age from 13 to 43, received their new kidneys as far back as 1975.

The compound was administered after they suffered organ rejection. Standard anti-rejection drugs didn't work, including OKT3, which wipes out white blood cells called T-cells that attack transplanted organs, Amemiya said.

The Food and Drug Administration approved OKT3 in 1987 for general use in kidney transplantation. It still is experimental in other types of transplants.

Twenty-seven of the 34 episodes of organ rejection experienced by the Japanese patients were reversed within 10 days, according to Amemiya. Only one transplanted kidney was lost, with the patient forced back to dialysis.

DSG worked best with the

milder forms of rejection occurring within six months of transplantation, Amemiya said. "We don't have any good therapy for chronic rejection," which occurs one to five years later and is characterised by a narrowing of the transplanted organ's arteries.

Side effects were temporary and included nausea and numbness around the mouth. Each of the 30 Japanese patients continued to receive cyclosporine and other immune-suppressive medications during the trial, Amemiya said.

Cyclosporine, derived from a soil fungus, helps prevent rejection by freezing certain T-cells so they don't divide and increase in number. But the daily oral doses can lead to kidney failure and high blood pressure.

DSG allows certain T-cells to divide normally but for some reason the cells do not attack transplanted tissue, Morris said. Transplanted organs also can be attacked by antibodies the recipient's body produces in response to foreign tissue. Transplanting organs across blood types or from one species to another generates even more of these antibodies.

Cyclosporine and other anti-rejection drugs prevent the antibodies from forming, provided the medication is given as soon as an organ is transplanted. Treatment must continue throughout the patient's life.

While DSG cannot reduce antibodies already in the blood, there is evidence it can suppress production of more — possibly explaining its ability to prolong survival of animals receiving organs from other types of animals, Morris said.

Whose promised land?

By Pascal B. Karmy

AMMAN — The sermon of Canon Michael Hamilton at Washington Cathedral on 19 February 1989 a copy of which was published in the Jordan Times on 5 June 1989 is well-balanced and fair. Unfortunately, such public sermons are rare in the Western Churches, whether Catholic or Protestant. Indeed very many of our Christian brothers in the West are imbued with the myth that the return of the Jews to Palestine is a prophetic requirement to the second coming of Christ and the consequent conversion of the Jews to Christianity. This myth is one of the principal causes (let alone the political and strategic causes) which led to the issue of the Balfour Declaration in 1917 by the British government and the subsequent establishment of the state of Israel. Even today one meets Catholic or Protestant priests in the West who practically have no knowledge of the history of Palestine in particular or of the Middle East in general and who still think that Palestine is solely the land of Israel thus obliterating the two thousand years after Christ from the history of Palestine and disregarding its ancient history which shows that its original inhabitants were the Canaanites, the Jesuites and the Philistines, prior to its invasion by the Hebrews. I have personally met such ill-informed priests in Europe and I was told by a Catholic priest here in Amman that he had met bishops in Germany who are supposed to be knowledgeable and well-educated, yet they have distorted concepts about the past and the present history of Palestine.

Let us however revert to the myth on the return of the Jews to Palestine. There is a group of evangelical or what I call fundamentalist Christians in the USA who are Zionist more than the Zionists themselves. This group believes that the Old Testament gives to the modern state of Israel divine and unconditional ownership of the land of Palestine excluding its indigenous people, and that the return of the Jews is a biblical prophecy. For this reason they unconditionally support Israel against the Arabs. In her book "Prophecy and Politics," Grace Halsell says that those Zionist Christians also believe that a great nuclear war called "Armageddon" will break out between the Soviets and their Arab friends on the one hand and the Jews and the Christians on the other. The Jews and their allies will come out victorious as they will be saved by "Christ the Saviour" who will establish the Kingdom of Jerusalem for one thousand years. It should be noted in passing, that the term "Armageddon" is mentioned in the Apocalypse of St. John the Apostle, but the latter clearly referred to the wars which led eventually to the fall of the Roman Empire of his time which persecuted the Christians and which the Apostle called "Babylon the Great, the mother of

fornications and the abominations of the earth". I should add that there is nothing in the Old Testament which supports the mythical claim of those Christian fundamentalists. The author Grace Halsell furthermore notes in her book that even ex-President Ronald Reagan and many of his friends and assistants who served in his administration have been influenced by this Zionist myth and this explains in part their unflagging political and material support of Israel. Ms. Halsell who does not believe in those fantastical ideas, adds that these fundamentalists disguise political movements which are unrelated to the true Christian faith.

Fortunately however, there are thousands of Christian churches and communities who reject this whole myth. In effect an ecumenical group of Christians-Protestants, Roman Catholics and Orthodox met in Illinois, USA, in 1979 and 1981 and issued what is called Lagrange Declarations. The declarations refuted the claim of the evangelical or fundamentalist Christians that the Bible gives the modern state of Israel a divine right and a divine sanction to the state of Israel's policy of territorial acquisition. Such an alleged claim must be judged in the light of the whole biblical revelation affirming that in the revelation of Jesus Christ, God's covenants have been fulfilled. The declarations questioned biblically the visions of nationalism and statehood limited to a particular people as the means for building a durable and just peace in the Holy Land. The declarations added that ".....an honest, open and comprehensive understanding of the Bible prohibits those claims and raises the priority of God's justice for all peoples as the means to nourish the hope of reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians."

In his book "Whose Promised Land?", the Reverend Colin Chapman a member of the Episcopal Church, wrote the following: "As a Christian I feel bound to conclude that the promise of the land in Abraham and his descendants does not give the Jews a divine right to possess the land for all times." The author adds that he does not believe that the state of Israel is 'of God' in the sense that it is the fulfilment (or even a preliminary stage of fulfilment) of all that God promised and predicted in the Old Testament about the future of the land and its people. The Reverend Colin Chapman went further to suggest that for a Christian to interpret those events simply as the fulfilment of prophecy represents a kind of regression. "It will be, he says, a return in a way of thinking which the disciples of Christ had abandoned once and for all when they grasped the kind of spiritual kingdom which Christ had inaugurated through his death and resurrection."

In conclusion, the belief of the Christian fundamentalists in the myth of the return of the Jews and their conversion to Christianity is absolutely wrong, groundless and has no validity in our Christian faith and doctrine.

People, people and more people — forecast for our planet

FEARS of the Earth becoming an increasingly overcrowded planet have been sharpened by a new warning that mankind is reproducing itself at a rate that leaves the statisticians way behind.

It had optimistically assumed that by the year 2100 global population might level off at 10.2 billion, double the present total. But a new projection abandons such false hopes and suggests a figure nearly triple today's level.

As many demographers believe that this planet would be incapable of sustaining nearly 15,000 million mouths, it is not surprising that the organisation backing the new money-raising appeal of the United Nations' Fund for Population Activities is known as the "Population Crisis Committee." UNFPA depends on voluntary contributions from member

states. It receives nothing from the U.N.'s regular budget.

Whether the world population merely doubles, or triples, in the next century will hinge largely on the success of family programmes, mostly in the Third World where economic pressures have forced cutbacks in such projects.

Yet, even on the most conservative projections, the world's poorer countries are expected to account for more than 85 million of the annual 90 million population growth rate over the next decade.

In sub-Saharan Africa alone, the use of some form of contraception would have to show a tenfold increase by 2025 just to achieve a levelling off on current growth estimates. Without rapid expansion of family planning education, says UNFPA, "the world will be inhabited by around

14.2 billion people by 2100.

Others are left to ponder how this human mass can be fed, housed, employed, and perhaps persuaded — if only by the pressure on world food resources — of

the futility of further unregulated reproduction.

It would cost perhaps \$2 billion a year, UNFPA estimates, to stabilise world population rates at just double present levels. For if

Third World family planning demands were fully met now, there would be 35 per cent fewer births in Latin America, 33 per cent fewer in Asia and 27 per cent fewer in Africa.

The key to holding population levels, the U.N. agency believes, lies in improving the status of women, especially in the developing world, on the principle that once women achieve in terms of

education and careers, family planning is a natural corollary. Women are regarded as "agents of change" without whose active and acknowledged role in society real social and

economic development is not possible. UNFPA is calling for changes in the laws of many developing countries to dismantle barriers affecting women — Lion feature

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مكتبة الأمل

'Opening the way for other nations with similar problems'

Mexico, creditor banks conclude landmark debt accord

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mexico and its creditor banks finally agreed on the key points of a debt-reduction package, providing the first victory in a U.S. government effort to ease the \$1.3 trillion Third World debt burden.

The agreement announced late Sunday night ended two days of intense talks at the U.S. Treasury Department where Mexican officials and U.S. bankers were joined by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

In the final package, negotiators representing the commercial banks agreed to choose from three options for providing assistance. They can cut the principal on the old loans by 35 per cent, reduce the interest rate they are charging to 6.25 per cent or provide new loans to Mexico.

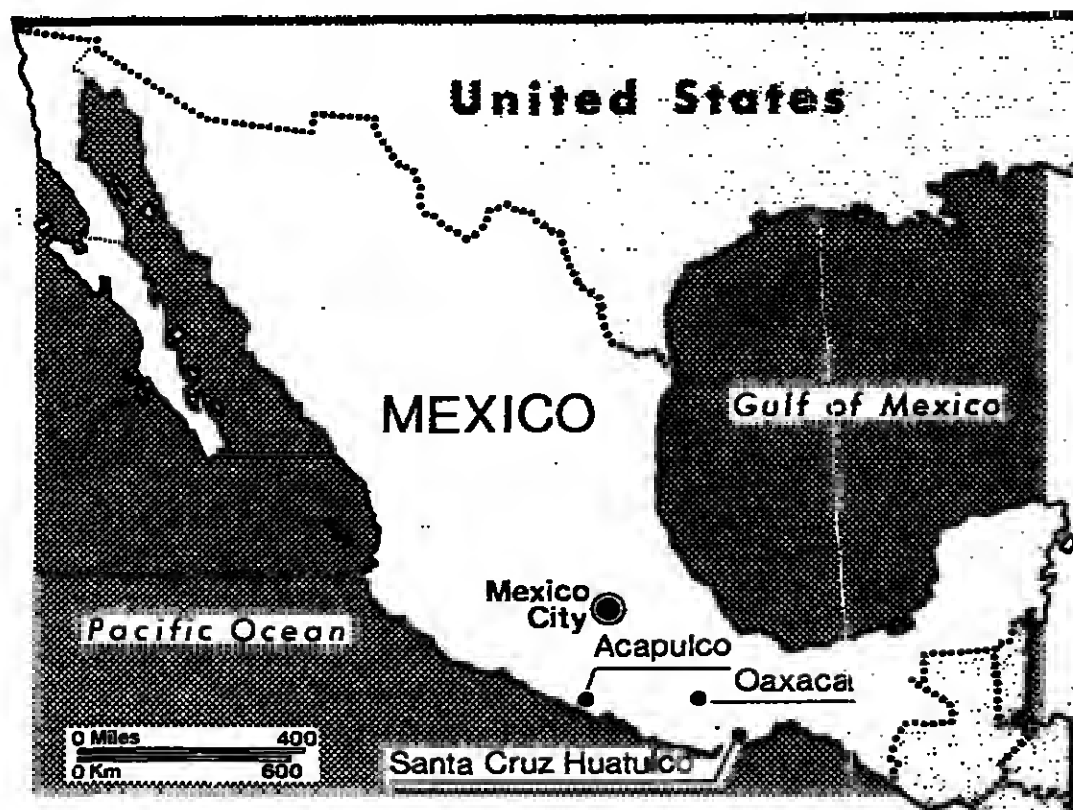
in the plan.

Brady plan

Still, the agreement signified the first tangible result for the U.S. government's debt-reduction plan, which was unveiled by Brady on March 10. The strategy seeks to provide various incentives for commercial banks to voluntarily reduce the amount of Third World debt they hold.

Brady, who had lobbied intensely for the final agreement, hailed the package as "a major step forward in the implementation" of the debt-reduction effort.

The administration of U.S. President George Bush had made Mexico the test-case for the Brady plan, believing that an agreement would establish precedents for deals with other countries.



tators to Washington on Saturday and Sunday to resolve the remaining issues.

Others participating in the final round of negotiations were Mexican Finance Minister Pedro Aspe and John Reed, chairman

of Citicorp and head of the 15-bank committee which bargains for the hundreds of banks to which Mexico owes money.

In a joint statement from the Mexican government and the banks, the two sides said they had

reached agreement on the main points of the financing package with the expectation that it would be accepted by "Mexico's approximately 500 creditor banks worldwide."

Banks accepting options would

be able to get guarantees against default on the remaining debt from the 151-nation International Monetary Fund (IMF) or its sister organization, the World Bank.

The joint statement estimated that \$7 billion will be available from the international lending organizations and other sources, including Japan, to support the debt-reduction and interest-rate reduction efforts for Mexico.

In conjunction with the Mexican agreement, Brady said the United States is willing to provide up to \$2 billion in short-term financing to Mexico to tide the country over until the new loans begin arriving later this year. He said other countries would help in providing this bridge loan.

'Readjustment clause'

Officials said one of the final issues resolved Sunday night involved a "readjustment clause" that would increase debt payments once the Mexican economy rebounds.

One official, who spoke on condition of that his name not be used, said both sides agreed to tie increased debt payments to any improvements in Mexico's export sales after the year 1996.

According to the joint statement, Mexico also agreed to provide opportunities for the banks to exchange about \$1 billion of debt annually for ownership of factories and other direct investments in Mexico, under a process

known as a debt-for-equity swap.

Salinas reaction
Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari went on nationwide television Sunday night to praise the final package, saying, "Mexico has opened the way for other nations with similar problems."

Salinas said the debt reduction plan answered "the cry of Mexicans to return to growth" but he cautioned Mexican citizens, "don't look for spectacular results overnight."

Salinas described the final talks as "difficult, complex and tense."

Mexico had begun the discussions demanding that the banks cut Mexico's debt by 55 per cent. The early reaction in Mexico, where the debt is a national preoccupation, was swift and positive. Even the leftist opposition, which last year called for a moratorium on debt payments, praised the accord.

Salinas described the agreement as a national triumph and said it fulfilled his Dec. 1 inaugural promise to reduce debt payments and start Mexico growing again.

"With work, order and discipline, Mexico can leave its crisis behind. This is a great moment for our nation; it is the product of an unparalleled effort by all Mexicans," Salinas said.

Salinas said the unpopular economic austerity plan that has curbed inflation and inspired creditor confidence will remain in

place. Sen. Ifigenia Martinez, of the leftist Democratic Revolutionary Party, said it was clear international lenders realized the potential for violence in hard-pressed developing nations, such as the rioting that hit Argentina and Venezuela this year.

"Mexico couldn't keep sending resources abroad to pay the debt without the risk of a social outburst," she said.

Businessmen and economists agreed with Salinas that the reductions would get the economy moving again and that the Mexican agreement would serve as a beacon to other Third World nations burdened by debt.

Ramon Saldana, of the Centre for Economic Research at Nuevo Leon University, said Mexico would be able to increase spending in such vital areas as education, health and communications.

"Mexico has opened the breach, and surely other countries will follow its example," said Juan Arturo Covarrubias Valenzuela, president of the Western Business Federation.

Salinas said his talks with Bush and leaders of the other major non-Communist industrialized nations at the Paris summit earlier this month were an important factor in the outcome.

He also offered his "solidarity and support" to other developing nations seeking better terms on their debts, including Brazil, Venezuela, Uruguay and the Philippines.

Jordan, Egypt hold talks on joint company

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt Tuesday open talks on the programmes of the joint holding company which was set up upon the directives of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee.

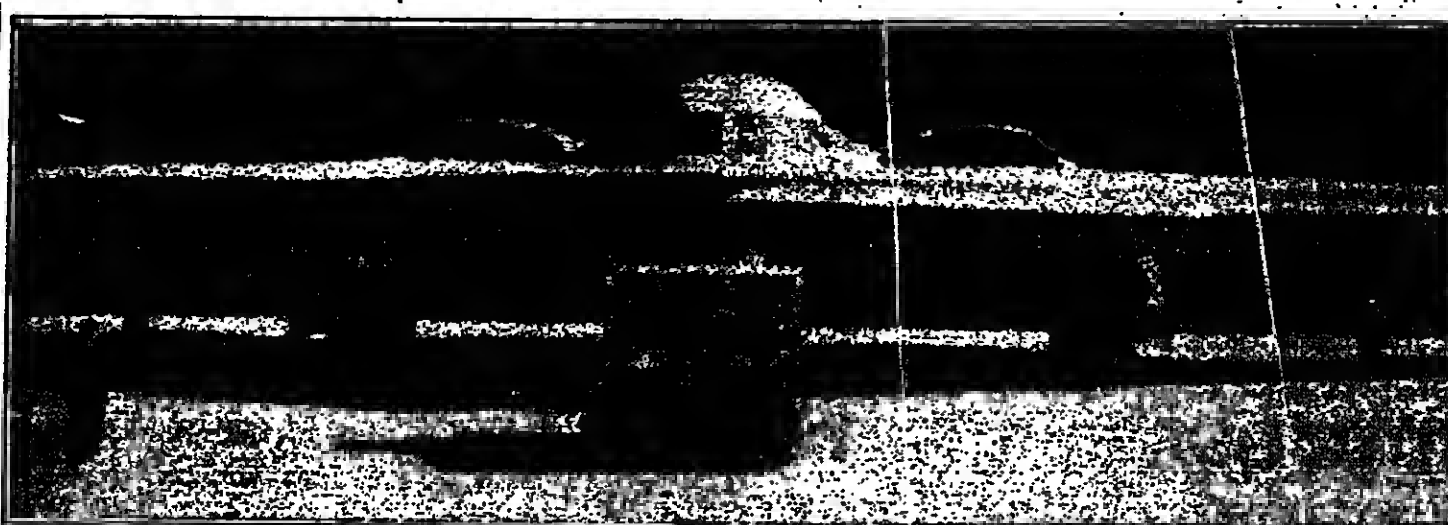
Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah arrived here Monday for the meetings which will cover the question of setting up a project in Egypt for producing lean meat.

Makramallah heads a team of officials and experts to the meeting by the holding company's general assembly which will discuss schemes in Jordan and Egypt

affiliated to this project.

The company holds 20 per cent of the total capital of the lean meat project, and is in charge of projects in both countries to produce agricultural seeds and a fishing industry in Jordan. The general assembly meeting is part of the two sides' preparations for the coming higher joint committee meeting which is due to convene in Amman shortly, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Makramallah and his team were welcomed at the airport by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Innay and the other officials including the director general of the holding company.



The Stealth B-2 bomber at Northrop's factory (file photo)

Bush wages last-ditch effort to save B-2

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress tackles military spending this week as President George Bush wages a last-ditch effort to save the B-2 bomber from money-conscious legislators opposed to the \$530-million aircraft.

Bush had groups of members to the White House on two occasions last week and plans to make individual pleas this week that the B-2, designed to penetrate Soviet airspace, is key to the nation's nuclear deterrence.

"The president is concerned by the opposition," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters Friday.

Lawmakers have expressed surprise at the plan's cost. The Defence Department has already invested about \$23 billion in the programme and wants an additional \$70 billion to buy 132 copies of the plane.

The one plane that exists has made one test flight, lasting about

two hours.

Debate on the military spending bill will be highlighted by two amendments to the defence bill that would either end the B-2 programme or severely limit it.

Democrat congressman Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, is proposing paying for just two bombers in 1990 and 1991 rather than the eight sought by the Defence Department.

Aspin believes Congress needs more information on the radar-evading plane before deciding whether to kill it or spend more money.

Two Republicans, John Rowland and John Kasiech, and Democrat Ronald Dellums will introduce an amendment to complete work on the 13 bombers under way and mothball the production line.

Rowland was one lawmaker summoned to the White House Friday, but Bush's argument

failed to sway him.

"I was not convinced by the president's remarks," Rowland said. "There are a small number of Republicans and hopefully a large number of Democrats" who believe testing should be completed before a commitment is made to build the 132 planes, Rowland said.

The Bush administration has proposed spending \$4.7 billion in fiscal 1990 for the B-2, but the House Armed Services Committee cut that amount by \$800 million.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Sunday on television network ABC that he was hopeful that the administration's arguments in support of the B-2 programme would eventually prevail on Capitol Hill.

"I think we're going to do fairly well. That is, I think we'll come out of it with what the House Armed Service Committee re-

commended," Cheney said.

Meanwhile, support remains strong for the programme on the Senate Armed Services Committee, which trimmed just \$300 million from the B-2 request.

Sen. Sam Nunn, an influential Democrat, said Sunday he agrees with Bush's contention that failure to proceed with the B-2 could vitally affect strategic arms control efforts.

"I think we'd have to go back to the drawing board on arms control," Nunn said on NBC's "Meet the Press" programme. "We have premised our basic arms control position on bomber being a vital part of our overall triad," together with land-based and submarine-launched missiles. Nunn described the B-2 as "a very stabilizing weapon" because unlike missiles, the bombers can be recalled after they have been put on airborne alert during a crisis.

Oman grants oil concession to U.S. firm

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — Conquest Exploration Co. of Houston, Texas, was awarded a two-year lease to prospect for oil in northern Oman by the sultanate's government Sunday.

The company will conduct seismic surveys in a 1,390-square-kilometre tract in the Jebel Aswad, or black mountain, region.

The company will be able to renew the lease for two more two-year periods provided it drills at least one exploratory well each term.

The agreement was signed by Omani Oil Minister Ahmed Saeed Al Shanfari and Conquest Vice President W. Franklin Hooper.

No mention was made of production-sharing if oil was discovered in commercial quantities, indicating that this would be negotiated once finds were made.

Oil exports are the backbone of the economy of Oman, which lies on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula.

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Baghdad asks private sector to freeze prices

BAGHDAD (AP) — Private sector businessmen have been asked to freeze prices for an unspecified period following similar measures taken by state-run enterprises, the Al Itihad weekly reported Monday.

The weekly, published by the Iraqi Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the price freeze was requested in accordance with the government's efforts to curb soaring prices of goods and services.

Al Itihad quoted the federation's chairman, Abdul Qader Abdul Latif, as urging businessmen to freeze or even reduce their prices because "continually rising prices have led to stagnation and halted the market's expansion."

"Private entrepreneurs have been depicted as greedy and as hindering development of the national economy," he said.

The call came just a few days after the government im-

plemented a decision to raise state employees' salaries by 25 dinars (\$80) a month in their first pay hike for more than 10 years.

The government froze prices of goods and services provided by state-run enterprises for one year from July 1.

Prices soared last year after a United Nations ceasefire took effect Aug. 20 in the 8-year Iran-Iraq war. Prices for some foods doubled recently in a new wave of price increases.

A pack of 30 eggs that used to cost 2 dinars (\$6.6) now sells for 4 dinars (\$12.8). A kilogram of chicken that cost 1.75 dinars (\$5.6) now costs 3.80 dinars (\$12.16).

More than 2 million government employees and an unspecified number of army and police officers will benefit from the salary increases which are expected to cost the budget about 600 million dinars (\$1.9 billion).

The government is currently subsidizing basic foods such as flour and cooking oil to the tune of 230 million dinars (\$736 million).

S. Koreans in Soviet Union

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's first economic mission to the Soviet Union left Monday to meet with Soviet government officials and businessmen on the proposed joint development of Siberia and other economic cooperation.

The 37-member private mission, representing the construction, fisheries, coal and other industries, was led by Chung Ju-Yung, founder and honorary chairman of the Hyundai group business conglomerate.

In a week-long visit, the south Koreans were to tour Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, Nakhodka and Moscow to discuss joint ventures and conduct feasibility studies.

BBC pay deal ends 13-week dispute

LONDON (R) — British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) management and broadcast unions reached agreement on an 8.8 per cent pay deal Sunday, ending a 13-week dispute which disrupted radio and television programmes.

The accord, after nearly 10 hours of talks at the state-funded conciliation service ACAS, will be presented to staff. BBC sources said it was expected to be approved.

The deal represented a climb-down for the three broadcast unions representing 20,000 of the BBC's 28,000 staff who had pressed for a 16 per cent pay rise through a series of one-day strikes in the past three months.

A statement by the BBC, which relies heavily on licensing fees for revenue, said the agreement removed the threat of disruption to television and radio schedules.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, July 24, 1989		Deutschemark	301.0	304.0
Central Bank official rates		Swiss franc	349.1	352.6
U.S. dollar	Buy	French franc	88.8	89.7
	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	403.1	407.1
Pound Sterling	Buy	Dutch guilder	266.8	269.5
	Sell	Swedish crown	88.4	89.3
		Italian lira (for 100)	41.7	42.1
		Belgian franc (for 10)	143.9	145.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling		1.6202/12	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar		1.1885/95	Canadian dollar
		1.9053/62	Deutschemarks
		2.1492/502	Dutch guilders
		1.6440/50	Swiss francs
		39.89/92	Belgian francs
		6.4625/75	French francs
		1376/1377	Italian lire
		142.55/65	Japanese yen
		6.4925/75	Swedish crowns
		6.9800/50	Norwegian crowns
		7.4000/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold		371.90/372.40	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The share market closed higher in subdued trading ahead of Wednesday's June consumer price index figures. The all ordinaries index closed up 4.6 at 1,607.6.

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Sonosuke Uno said he would resign and, after a respectful period, the market answered with a modest round of applause as share prices closed broadly firmer in light trade. The Nikkei rose 193.90 to 34,093.33.

HONG KONG — A technical correction after recent gains sent the Hang Seng index 13.2 points lower to 2,482.54. "Investors were cautious... the next direction should be coming from the United States," a broker said.

SINGAPORE — The market closed mixed after speculative buying and bargain-hunting alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index fell 3.01 to 1,358.90.

BOMBAY — Exchange closed by gales in Bombay, trading resumes on Tuesday.

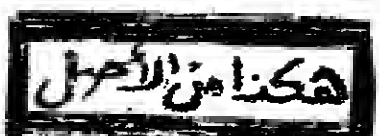
FRANKFURT — Shares closed mostly lower as profit-taking pushed prices off opening highs at new peak levels for the year. The DAX index closed at 1,543.30, down 12.10.

ZURICH — Prices continued to build on recent gains to close higher in fairly active trading. The all-share Swiss index rose 7.0 to 1,145.2.

PARIS — Shares ended the first day of the new account off their highs in generally quiet trading.

LONDON — Shares were slightly above the day's lows in depressed afternoon trading. Cooling bid speculation and renewed concern over wage settlement provided an excuse to consolidate after recent strong gains. At 1450 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 23.2 at 2,260.6.

NEW YORK — Stocks stayed under pressure in late-morning trading as investors took profits following sharp gains in the previous session. The Dow was down 21 at 2,586.



Lemond celebrates Tour de France win

PARIS (AP) — Greg Lemond tried to become another American in Paris Sunday night, taking in the Moulin Rouge, the famed French night club.

But he had a hard time going unnoticed. Less than six hours earlier he had won the Tour de France, the famed French cycling race that ended on the Champs Elysees, to complete a miraculous comeback.

Not only was he lucky to be competing again, he won the 2,020-mile (3,250-kilometer) race by the closest victory margin ever — eight seconds over Laurent Fignon of France.

So, it's no surprise Lemond was greeted by a round of applause at the Moulin Rouge. Or even recognized at McDonalds going in for a quick snack just beforehand.

Lemond made himself famous again by winning the Tour De France for the second time. In 1986 he was the first American to win the race in a French-dominated sport.

Then he went through misfortune. In April 1987 he was accidentally shot by his brother-in-law while hunting. Later he had an emergency appendectomy followed by skin surgery. All of which made him miss the tour in 1987 and 1988.

He came back this year with low expectations.

"One month ago I didn't think I would be in the top 10, top 20," Lemond said. "But through the race I got more confident."

He kept performing well. He won a time trial on July 6 that put him in the lead for the first time.

He lost it five days later to Fignon only to gain it back on the basis of a good performance in another individual race-against the clock.

Again Fignon battled back to reclaim the leader's yellow jersey with four days to go and hold an apparently insurmountable 50-second lead entering the final 15-mile (24.5-kilometer) time trial from Versailles to Paris.

"I went all out," Lemond said. "I didn't think I was going to win. The worst thing I could have done was lose by a second — the worst thing."

Lemond finished in 26:57. Fignon was in 27:47. Lemond won by eight seconds overall, the smallest winning margin ever in the 76 editions of the Tour De France. "The previous slimmest was 38 seconds in 1968, also in a deciding time trial."

"I thought it was possible but when I warmed up today I saw there was a strong tailwind," Lemond said. "With a strong tailwind it's hard to make up the difference."

But he did it. "When I finished the stage I turned around and waited," Lemond said. "I heard the announcer counting off the seconds. I saw Fignon pass. That was the hardest moment. I was afraid."

"I saw he had 20 seconds to go and make it. He was in sight and I didn't think it would take that long to finish," Lemond said.

"What does it matter for 8, 10, 20 or 30 seconds? It's all the same," Fignon said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

MEXICO 4, SOVIET UNION 1: Mexico whipped past the Soviet Union 4-1 in Mexico City Sunday to win a berth in the world group for next year's David Cup. The Mexicans had scored an unbeatable 3-0 lead, but Jorge Lozano gave Mexico its additional point in Sunday's final singles, defeating Andrei Chesnokov 6-3, 6-0 in the return match. Nonplaying captain Antonio Palafox took advantage of the one-change rule to substitute Agustin Moreno for Leonardo Lavalle in Sunday's first rematch against Andrei Chesnokov so the Mexican Rookie could get some more exposure to Davis Cup pressure. Chesnokov defeated Moreno 7-6, 6-4, with the Mexican winning the first set by sudden death. Moreno played a defensive game after that, although he scored points the few times he got close to the net. "This is Moreno's second Davis Cup. The pressure was too much for him. He should have been more aggressive," cup veteran Palafox told reporters. (AP)

LONGON WINS WOMENS TOUR: Jeannie Longo of France won her third consecutive women's Tour De France in Paris Sunday, while Monique Knol of the Netherlands won the final stage and the United States took the team competition. Knol, the Olympic champion, won her second stage in a row. The 11th and final leg was 10 laps up and down the Champs-Elysees for a total of 60.5 kilometers (37.6 miles). Knol won in a sprint over West Germany's Viola Paulitz and American Sally Zack. Italy's Maria Canina, the women's winner in 1985 and 1986, was second to Longo overall, eight minutes and 44 seconds behind. Americans Inga Thompson and Susan Elias were third and fourth, giving the U.S. team an important boost. In the team standings, Italy was second and Canada third. This year's women's Tour De France was run in 11 stages over 776 kilometers (482 miles). Knol won the first two stages as well as the last two but faltered as Longo dominated the middle stages. At one time Longo won five straight days in a row to build up an insurmountable lead. (AP)

ASIAN HOPES OF SPREADING MATCHES TO EUROPE: Asian football confederation secretary-general Perter Velappan said in Oman Sunday that the AFC was out to broaden club championships to Europe. At present the Asian club champion plays with the champion club of Africa, and Velappan said: "We want to broaden this idea and play against champion clubs from every continent." The AFC wanted to elevate club championships to European-level standard, he stressed in an interview on the sidelines of the 9th Asian club championship games hosted by the Sultanate. The games, which started Saturday and continue through July 29, involve Oman, India, Pakistan and Nepal. All are members of group III of the championship, whose second round is in September and the finals in December. "We want to strengthen the club championship in Asia exactly like the club championships in Europe," he said. "We want to give the right image to the clubs in every Asian country, they are responsible in making the national teams." (AP)

YASTRZEMSKI INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME: Johnny Bench and Carl Yastrzemski were inducted into major league baseball's Hall of Fame on its 50th anniversary Sunday. "When I was growing up Mickey Mantle was my first idol," said Bench, catcher for Cincinnati Reds teams that won four pennants and two world series. "I hoped to follow Mantle as a superstar from Oklahoma, but I really never thought I'd make the Hall of Fame." "The race does not always go to the swiftest, nor the battle to the strongest," said Yastrzemski, who replaced Hall of Famer Ted Williams as the Boston Red Sox left fielder. "It belongs to those who can run the race and stay the course and fight the good fight." Bench holds the record for the most home runs by a catcher with 327. He won the gold glove ten times. Yastrzemski was the only player to surpass the 3,000 hit and 400 homer plateau and was named to 18 all-star teams. He won six gold gloves. (R)

U.S. TEAM TAKES MARLBORO TITLE: Bruce Murray's penalty kick in overtime has given the United States national team a 2-1 win over Chivas Guadalajara of Mexico and the Marlboro Cup of Chicago soccer title. Earlier Saturday, Ruch Chorzow of Poland defeated the Guatemala national team 4-0 to take third place. Murray's penalty kick clinched the victory for the United States, and his outstanding play figured in the only regulation time U.S. goal. Murray was fouled in the goal box, giving the United States a penalty kick opportunity that forward Hugo Perez made good. As the U.S. team sought to hold the lead in the second half, they brought on the defender, Steve Trittnich, as a substitute. The move backfired when Trittnich fouled Amador Gonzalez to give Guadalajara a shot at tying. U.S. goal-keeper Tony Meola made a save on the penalty kick, but 10 minutes later a second Trittnich mistake led to a goal for Guadalajara forward Diego Silva. (AP)

Tyson wants Evander Holyfield

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Mike Tyson wants Evander Holyfield.

"I'm sure he will find it very stimulating," the 23-year-old heavyweight champion said.

However, Tyson's next few fights are more likely to be with opponents more on the order of Carl "The Truth" Williams, who found his association with the unbeaten Tyson Friday night at the convention centre to be brief and controversial.

The 20th punch Tyson threw was the last. Holyfield, the former cruiser-weight champion who is 22-0 with 18 knockouts, would probably be tougher.

"I would like to match skills with Evander Holyfield," Tyson said after scoring his 37th victory and 33rd knockout.

A major-money match with the unbeaten Holyfield, who is ranked no. 1 by both the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association, isn't likely until next summer.

Tyson could have two fights before then — against Michael Dokes or James "Buster" Douglas and against George Foreman.

Seth Abraham, a vice president of HBO, the television station that broadcast Friday night's fight, is scheduled to talk to promoter Don King and Tyson's manager Bill Cayton about a fight against Dokes or Douglas in September or October.

It would be the sixth fight in Tyson's eight-bout, 26.5-million-dollar deal with HBO, which is interested in signing him to a lifetime contract.

Dokes, a former WBA champion, increased his attractiveness as a challenger with a good showing before being stopped in the 10th round by Holyfield March 12.

Douglas, who probably will replace Williams as the no. 1 contender of the International Boxing Federation, was an unimpressive, but easy winner over Oliver McCall Friday night's undercard.

Andretti bumps Fittipaldi

TORONTO (AP) — Michael Andretti barely avoided the adversity that has dogged him this season, surviving a bumping incident with Emerson Fittipaldi just two laps before taking the checkered flag Sunday in the Molson Indy.

The 26-year-old Andretti led the final 23 laps of the 103-lap 295.5-kilometer race, but the scorching hot Fittipaldi charged into the picture in the final 10 laps, coming from an eight-second deficit to challenge for the lead on the main straightaway on lap 102.

Fittipaldi tried to squeeze his Penske PC18-Chevrolet beneath the Chevrolet-powered Lola of Andretti as the two darted toward the first turn on the 1.78-mile, 11-turn temporary circuit.

Andretti appeared to move toward Fittipaldi nearly hit the concrete wall before sliding into a runoff area.

He was able to continue and

still wound up second, finishing 12.08 seconds behind the winner. "I was a little surprised by him," Andretti said of Fittipaldi. "I was braking later in that turn. I guess I didn't give him enough room. I'm sorry."

Fittipaldi said, "I'm very disappointed. I was there already. I don't know what happened to Michael."

It was the latest of a rash of bumping incidents among the top contenders in the Indy-car series, several of which have involved Fittipaldi, who won the Indianapolis 500 after bumping aside Al Unser Jr. a lap and a half from the end.

Andretti, who is teamed with his father, Mario, this season had led seven of the previous eight races this season and had failed to win, succumbing to an assortment of mechanical problems and accidents.

This time it was defending Toronto champion Unser who

ran into the biggest problem, running out of fuel while holding a 25-second lead over Bobby Rahal.

Rahal, winner of the inaugural race here in 1986, led until he made his second and final scheduled pit stop on lap 81, turning over the top spot to Andretti. He eventually went out on lap 84 with a broken exhaust beader.

It was the eighth victory of Andretti's career and his first since the season-finish in 1987 at Miami — a stretch of 23 races. He averaged 146.2 kilometers per hour.

Fittipaldi, who holds a big lead in the car-PPG season point battle, now has two straight second-place finishes added to four victories in the previous five races.

Danoy Sullivan, who has finished second in each of the three previous Toronto races, wound up third this time, a lap behind the leaders.

Trans-Antarctic team hope to reach continent soon

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) — Will Steger's international Trans-Antarctica expedition has reached its last stop in South America to await improved weather for the last leg of the flight to Antarctica.

The Soviet cargo jet carrying the Minnesota-based dog sled expedition landed Saturday at Punta Arenas, Chile, on the strait of Magellan.

Blowing snow and poor visibility over King George Island, off the northwest tip of the Antarctic peninsula, kept Steger's group from continuing Saturday. Storms sometimes prohibit travel to Antarctica for as long as two weeks.

"From now on, it's all forward. A break in the weather and we'll head straight south," Steger told a reporter from the U.S. newspaper, the St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch, who was on the flight.

The group's arrival in Punta Arenas ended a taxing weeklong flight from Minnesota aboard a Soviet Ilyushin-76, one aspect of the international partnership symbolized by the expedition.

The six team members are from six nations.

Corporations and individuals have donated much of the \$11 million it will cost to support them on their seven-month, 4,000-mile (6,400-kilometer) trek.

Others have crossed Antarctica on snowmobiles and giant snow tractors, but if this group succeeds, it would be the first unmechanized crossing.

The expedition was marred early, when two of Steger's sled dogs died during an unscheduled repair layover in steamy Havana, Cuba.

As unprecedented as Steger's attempt to cross the width of

Antarctica will be the attempt by Soviet pilots to land their bulky Ilyushin-76 on the hostile continent.

"It is a pioneer flight to Antarctica," said Arthur Chilingarov, a Soviet official who is escorting the expedition south.

The Chilean-owned runway on King George Island is a 4,300-foot (1,300-meter) strip cut across an isthmus. Overrunning it means a drop into the sea. The strip is hard-packed ground during the Austral summer, but now it is hidden beneath 9 inches of ice.

The Ilyushin-76, a wide-bodied plane similar to the U.S. military's C-141 and capable of carrying some 88,000 pounds (40,000 kilograms), is more typically flown from longer, concrete runways.

Chief pilot Stanislav Bliznyuk, top test pilot for the Ilyushin air manufacturing concern, has never landed one on ice.

Swedes get chance of revenge

BASTAD, Sweden (R) — Mats Wilander's reward for helping Sweden safely through their Davis Cup semifinal at the weekend is another shot at West German Carl Uwe-Steel, the man who humiliated him last year.

Steeb, who came back from two sets down to beat Wilander as West Germany took the cup from Sweden in the 1988 final, played a crucial role in helping his team beat former champions the United States 3-2 in the second semifinal.

He beat Andre Agassi in the fourth match in Munich to clinch the victory after Wimbledon champion Boris Becker and Eric Jelen had handed Ken Flach and Robert Seguso their first defeat in 10 Davis Cup matches.

Stefan Edberg, like Wilander, will relish the prospect of revenge in the December final.

An ankle injury restricted Edberg to the doubles against Yugoslavia in Bastad — a match he and Anders Jarryd lost — but he should claim one of the singles places in the final and play Becker, the man who took away his Wimbledon title two weeks ago.

Becker himself was exhausted after playing nearly seven hours of tennis in two days. He came back from two sets down to beat Agassi in a match which spilled over two days, took a 45-minute break and then went straight out for the doubles.

"I have been through some tough things in the last few years but this has got to be among the toughest," said Becker who now

plans a three-week break.

West Germany's captain Niki Piet said of his leading man: "It is a sign of a great champion who can win Wimbledon and then play at such a high level two weeks later."

But even though the reigning champions will have home advantage in the final — the venue has yet to be formally announced but Munich, with its fast, indoor carpet court, is favourite — Piet said victory over the Swedes would be hard.

"How can we be favourites?" he said. "Edberg and Wilander are great players. On ranking they are higher than us. We have a good chance but you cannot say we are favourites."

Swedish captain Jonte Sjogren, delighted at seeing his personal

charge Wilander back on form after months of injury and self-doubt, was confident his team could repeat their 1985 upset when they defeated West Germany in the Munich final.

But one problem must be ironed out in the next five months. Jarryd, ranked second in the world in doubles, and Edberg looked rusty as a pair and lost in four sets to the less experienced Goran Ivanisevic and Goran Prpic.

"If Sweden is to win the doubles in the Davis Cup final it has to be Anders and Stefan and I hope it can be arranged for them to play doubles in a tournament before then," said Sjogren. "Stefan and Anders didn't play well here but they are good doubles players."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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LOGIC IN WHAT YOU LEAD

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 8 4
♥ A Q J
♦ 5 3
♣ K J 7 2

EAST
♠ K 10 3
♥ 9 7 5
♦ A K 8 4 2
♣ 6 4

SOUTH
♠ J 9 7 6 5 2
♥ K 10 8
♦ J
♣ A Q 10

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of Bridge is a logical game. If you know what the problem is, more than likely you can work out the right answer.

When North could jump raise spades, South fell in love with his hand. His three honors in partner's suit assured a double fit, and with first or second-round control of every side suit, he knew that there were no two fast losers in any suit. He settled for a small slam when he learned an ace was missing. West cashed the king of dia-

monds and followed with the ace, ruffed by declarer. All South had to do to make his slam was to bring in the trump suit without a loser, and with a combined 10 cards in the suit the percentage play was to take a finesse.

It might seem, therefore, that declarer can lead any card from hand and finesse the queen. Most of the time that would be adequate. However, if the cards are divided as above, declarer will still have to concede a trump trick.

A trump finesse is only part of the solution. Declarer also should provide for the possibility that all the missing spades will be in the West hand.

To cater to that, declarer should lead the jack of spades to the third trick. If West plays low, declarer runs the jack and repeats the finesse to pick up all the trumps. If West covers, dummy's ace wins and declarer learns about the 3-0 split when East discards. It is a simple matter for declarer to return to hand in a side suit and lead another trump, taking the marked finesse of the eight if West follows low.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

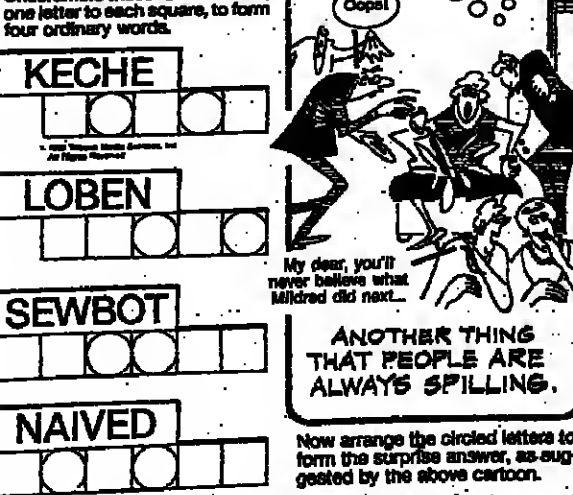
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I had fun while you were working late! Guess how many different foods explode in the microwave!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

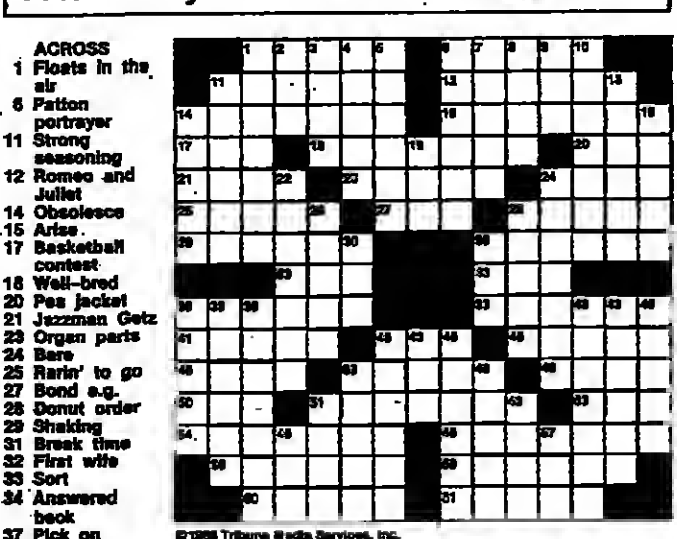
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRESS GULLY DENTAL BANNER

Answer: What the dynamite's annual shindig was — A REAL BLAST

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Ragus



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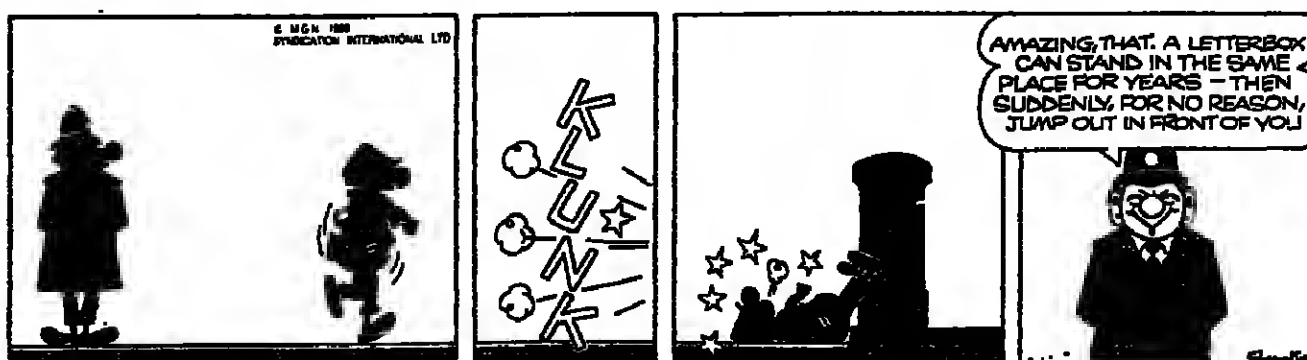
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



OAU summit focuses on Namibia, S. Africa

ADDIS ABABA (R) — African leaders began their annual summit Monday focusing on challenges posed by white-ruled South Africa and its alleged interference in Namibia's pre-independence elections.

South Africa's racial policies and its disputed rule of Namibia have been on the agenda of the 49-nation Organisation of African Unity (OAU) for the past 26 years.

But OAU officials said the two issues have assumed added importance and urgency as Namibia moves towards independence and signs of change emerge in South Africa.

African states want economic sanctions on Pretoria tightened and toughened to include an end to the rescheduling of the country's foreign debt.

Resolutions passed by foreign ministers meeting in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa last week also demanded an end to international credit guarantees

and loans to Pretoria guaranteed by gold. South Africa's chief export.

The ministers' resolutions, which are virtually certain to be adopted by the three-day summit, accused South Africa of imposing a reign of terror with its sweeping bans on opposition groups and jailing of political foes.

They urged an immediate and unconditional release from jail of Nelson Mandela, the world's most famous political prisoner and head of the African National Congress (ANC), the main guerrilla group fighting white rule in South Africa.

Earlier this month South African President P.W. Botha held unprecedented talks with Mandela, who has been in jail for the

past 26 years, sparking speculation that this could be a prelude to his release.

Pretoria's ruling National Party chief F.W. de Klerk, who is likely to succeed Botha in September, hinted last week that the meeting could lead to the ban on the ANC being lifted.

Pretoria keeps on tantalising (us with) all these options but is not acting on any of them. The international community has to put more pressure on the regime to ensure it complies," a senior OAU official told Reuters.

The OAU ministers rejected de Klerk's proposals to overhaul apartheid, saying the system should be destroyed and replaced by universal polls to establish a democratic government.

On Namibia, which South Africa has ruled for 74 years, the African leaders were expected to call on South Africa to stop alleged intimidation of voters ahead of elections in November. They were also expected to urge

the immediate dissolution of Koevoet, Pretoria's commando-type security unit in Namibia, which U.N. officials and human rights organisations have accused of intimidating voters.

Cape Town blasts

Three bombs exploded near Cape Town courthouses late Sunday, killing two men, and police said they may be the first shots in an ANC campaign against September general elections.

A spokesman said police were probing the possibility that the ANC had planted the bombs near city magistrates' courts.

He added that the targets had been designated as nomination courts, where candidates for Sept. 6 general elections will officially be registered.

Two men died when a bomb exploded outside a court building late Sunday. Two other blasts rocked courthouses in a coloured (mixed-race) suburb east of the city.



A Communist Party official offering concessions to Soviet miners urging them to return to work

Siberian miners voice confidence in Moscow

PROKOPYEVSK (AP) — The lanky strike leader smiled in the gloom of the west Siberian hotel room, puffed on a strong Russian cigarette and told an American correspondent, "I never thought I would have this conversation."

"They used to tell us that foreign correspondents wanted to come here to mark our factories on their maps so they could drop nuclear bombs on them," he said. "Now you come here to cover our strike," the largest industrial job action in the Soviet Union for 60 years.

Vyacheslav G. Akulov, 38, one of 26 members of the strike committee in the Kuznetsk coal basin of western Siberia, is amazed at the changes taking place in his country.

Like other strike leaders interviewed last Thursday and Friday in Prokopyevsk, he expressed more hope than anger in explaining the miners' demands, and radiated confidence at government concessions that sent the mines back to work last Friday. Hundreds of thousands of miners elsewhere in the country remain on strike.

The miners, like nearly everyone else in the Soviet Union, have been watching nationally televised sessions of the newly constituted Congress of People's Deputies, which met in May and June, and the reconstituted Supreme Soviet, the standing parliament.

The lawmakers seized the unprecedented public stage to turn down cabinet nominees and criticize the armed forces, the KGB, and other formerly sacred cows of Soviet communism.

On July 11, coal miners in Mezhdurechensk, near Prokopyevsk and 2,000 kilometres east of Moscow, decided it was their turn to speak out, and sparked a strike that at its height involved half the nation's one million coal miners and stretched from the Arctic to Central Asia and the Ukraine.

The miners want not only higher wages and benefits, to enable them to purchase Western-style goods; they also want Western-style institutions, such as a legislature with real power, the right to strike, and more representative trade unions.

Among the lawmakers that Akulov admires most are Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who was sent into external exile in 1980 for his dissident views but who has since been rehabilitated.

"Before, we were told that Sakharov was anti-Soviet. And we believed them. Now we find out that he was the conscience of the nation, one of the few people who had the courage to stand up and speak the truth when it was dangerous. That's what we all need to do now," Akulov said.

Akulov, who has rarely left the Kuznetsk basin and never before met a Westerner, says he has no trouble envisioning the disappearance of the one-party communist system and the development of several parties contending for popular approval.

"That's like you have in the United States, isn't it? Several parties present their ideas in the legislature, debate them, and find a compromise. That's what we need," he said, bringing his fists together.

Akulov grinned, showing several gold teeth.

"If I had said these things even five years ago, I would have been asking for a trip even deeper into Siberia," he said. "But it's good that we're tearing down the iron curtain and now we can learn what goes on abroad."

Akulov, from the city Anzhero-Sudzhensk at the northern end of the Kuznetsk basin, is an engineer who installs steel supports in the deep mines of the region. He has the sinewy arms and gaunt face of many Siberian miners.

Besides their demands for higher living standards, and their desire for a more democratic country, the miners want more voice in managing their industry, a demand they won in the agreement that sent them back to work Friday.

Sri Lanka lifts censorship

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The government Monday lifted censorship requirements that were imposed on July 6 for local and foreign news media.

The announcement was made one day after the assassination of the chief censor, which officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, blamed on Sinhalese extremists.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told local newspaper editors that censorship had been lifted, while also warning them: "Be more responsible and maintain self-censorship, especially on subversive activities and the Indian issue."

Censorship was instituted as ethnic violence worsened and a dispute deepened between India and Sri Lanka's demands for the withdrawal of 40,000 Indian soldiers deployed here as a peacekeeping force.

Manel Abharatne, director of

the government's information department, confirmed that journalists no longer needed submit to their stories to the censorship committee.

Abharatne was one of the four censors selected by the government. The chief censor, Themis Guruge, who also headed the state-run radio station, was shot to death Sunday morning while returning to his home after jogging.

Wijeratne, who also is deputy defence minister, said censorship had been lifted in response to requests made by members of parliament Friday.

Deputy Information Minister A.J. Ranasinghe said Sunday that Guruge, 67, told him that he had received several threatening calls and letters during the past few days.

Ranasinghe said he had offered government security for Guruge and his family, but he had de-

clined.

"I am an innocent person. Who would want to harm me?" Guruge had replied.

In the latest attack on security forces, five policemen and the son of one of them were killed when suspected Sinhalese extremists set off a landmine under their jeep Sunday at Polonnaruwa 160 kilometres north-east of Colombo.

Wijeratne asked the editors not to glorify terrorism and advised them to exercise self-censorship in the interests of the country, a Sri Lankan journalist present at Monday's press conference said.

Censorship was imposed as part of a crackdown on the People's Liberation Front (JVP), made up of majority Sinhalese youths.

Police have accused the front of killing about 2,500 people, mostly politicians, security men and government officials.

Indian parliament left without opposition

NEW DELHI (AP) — All 106 opposition members in the lower house of parliament officially resigned Monday and demanded new elections, saying a controversial foreign arms deal had destroyed confidence in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government.

The members of the 12 opposition parties handed their letters of resignation to Balram Jakhar, speaker of the Lok Sabha, (House of the People), who accepted them.

As Gandhi quietly watched, members of his Congress Party jeered and chanted "Shame, shame, shame."

Although opposition politicians boycotted entire sessions of parliament in the past, they had never resigned. Gandhi's party holds a solid majority in

the 544-member Lok Sabha, the law-making branch of the government, and the opposition's departure will likely have no effect.

In a rare display of solidarity, the usually fractious and unruly opposition Sunday announced their resignations, citing an auditor's report giving inconsistencies in the 1986 purchase of artillery guns from a Swedish firm.

By giving up their seats, opposition leaders said, they hoped the billion-dollar deal would be a major issue in the next general election, which Gandhi must call by January.

The opposition wants Gandhi to step down and allow the voters either to install a new government or vindicate his government. If Gandhi does not

resign the opposition seats will remain vacant until the next election.

"Never before has the office of the prime minister been brought into disrepute as under the present incumbent," said V.P. Singh, leader of the Janata Dal (People's Party). "We were all elected by the people and now we are going back to them for their verdict on this issue."

But government officials contend the deal was sanctioned by Singh, who at that time served as finance minister in Gandhi's cabinet. Singh left the ruling party in 1987.

As he left parliament, Singh denied any wrongdoing but added if anyone had proof, "they should prosecute me."

Besides the Janata Dal, the opposition parties include the

Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party), the Telugu Desam (Party of the Telugus), the two major Communist parties and seven regional groups.

The rest of the seats are controlled by Gandhi's Congress Party and independents.

After the auditor general's report was released Tuesday, opposition members in parliament shouted anti-government slogans, called Gandhi a thief and demanded his resignation. When he refused, they walked out and stalled the proceedings for three days.

The \$1.4 billion deal has been a major scandal for Gandhi's government because of allegations that the Swedish firm AB Bofors paid kickbacks to secure the contract.

Rushdies constantly switch 'safe houses'

LONDON (AP) — Salman Rushdie, whose novel "The Satanic Verses" caused worldwide uproar among Muslims, remains under guard and spends only a few weeks in each "safe house," a newspaper reported Monday.

The Independent, a respected daily, said Rushdie and his American wife, who writes under her maiden name of Marianne Wiggins, have lived in a succession of "safe houses" since Iran's late religious leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, on Feb. 14 called for the author's death for insulting Islamic sanctity.

The report said the houses are operated by the special branch — a unit of Scotland Yard police headquarters concerned with political activities — and MI5, the secret intelligence unit engaged in counter-subversion.

The houses are "generally used for spies and intelligence contacts," the report said.

The Independent said on the day of Khomeini's death threat, the novelist and his wife were taken from their home in London's Islington district by special branch detectives and have never gone back there together.

"Salman is effectively in prison

at the moment," it quoted playwright Harold Pinter, a friend of the novelist, as saying.

The report said Rushdie and his wife have dined occasionally with literary acquaintances and leading political figures, like opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock. Rushdie continues to review books while writing a children's book himself.

But publishers Secker and Warburg requested no use of photographs of Wiggins when they sent out review copies of her book of short stories, "Herself in Love," to be published at the end of this month.

The report said the Rushdies "are now more alone than ever. Literally no friends, acquaintances, agents or publishers know where they are. They cannot receive telephone calls, though mail sent through a tortuous route via police does reach them and they can then respond to messages. But it is a slow process."

Security for the couple costs hundreds of thousands of pounds and "differs little from that accorded to a head of state... activities like shopping, theatre or cinema are out of the question," the report said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Burmese students stage protest

BANGKOK (AP) — Some 60 Burmese students waved banners and chanted slogans outside the Burmese embassy in Bangkok Monday, demanding the release of arrested opposition leaders Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo. The two, who head the largest pro-democratic opposition group, were placed under house arrest by the military government in Rangoon last Thursday. Meanwhile, British authorities have expressed concern over the whereabouts of Michael Aris, the British husband of Aung San Suu Kyi, who flew to Rangoon Saturday. A Foreign Office spokesman in London said Aris was not permitted to see a British diplomat waiting for him at the airport.

Uganda officers may face firing squad

KAMPALA (R) — Some Ugandan army officers may face the firing squad for letting 47 teenage prisoners suffocate in an abandoned train, army commander Major-General Salim Saleh said Sunday. "Someone will have to die for this," he was quoted by the state-run New Vision newspaper as saying. "I do not know what the charge will be. It may be gross criminal negligence or it may be mass murder," he said. The army has arrested 14 officers, including a brigade commander, for leaving the 47 prisoners, arrested as suspected rebels, for three days without food or water. The government now says the teenagers were innocent. They were among 280 youths rounded up in an army crackdown on rebels in eastern Uganda. Some 5,000 people in the region have fled their homes, complaining the army was burning crops and looting houses.

Masked gunman kills Catholic in Belfast

BELFAST (AP) — A Roman Catholic man was killed by several masked gunmen who barged into his home in west Belfast Sunday, police said. The victim's 13-year-old son witnessed the attack but was unhurt, according to a spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's police force. Police were uncertain how many gunmen participated in what was believed to be a sectarian killing. It was the 30th death this year in the British-ruled province attributed to the conflict between the mainly Protestant supporters of continued ties with Britain and the mainly Roman Catholic people who seek an end to British rule.

Vietnamese attack guards at camp

HONG KONG (AP) — About 200 Vietnamese boat people at a makeshift detention camp hurled stones at guards Sunday night, slightly injuring two police officers, police reported. Police said it was not known what caused the disturbance at the Sek Kong camp, a former military airfield where more than 7,000 Vietnamese live in tents. Police said order was restored in the camp after an hour and that they had no other details about the violence. The Sek Kong camp, which is run by the police, was set up last month after more than 25,000 boat people arrived from Vietnam this year.

Austria honours von Karajan

VIENNA (AP) — Austria Sunday honoured the late conductor Herbert von Karajan, a brilliant and controversial musician, with a star-studded performance of Mozart's Requiem attended by thousands in Salzburg Cathedral and broadcast live on national television. Karajan died last Sunday of heart failure at the age of 81 at his home in Anif, just outside his native Salzburg. Just the day before he died, Karajan had attended rehearsals for Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Un ballo in Maschera" (The Masked Ball), which will open this year's Salzburg festival next Thursday with Placido Domingo in the starring role. Domingo was among the thousands of mourners at the Salzburg Cathedral Sunday for the requiem and a memorial service conducted by Cardinal Franz Koenig, hailed Karajan as a maestro "who made us, our country and the whole world much richer."

Pinochet doing well after surgery

SANTIAGO (AP) — Military President Augusto Pinochet underwent surgery for a hernia to his left groin caused by his daily weightlifting sessions, doctors reported. Pinochet, 73, was reported recovering well after the hour-long operation Sunday at Santiago's military hospital. Pinochet's doctor, Henry Olivé, said Pinochet was to remain at the hospital for about five days and then go home to complete his recovery.

Mum is the word on U.S. 'diplomat-turned spy'

By Bryna Brennan
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With U.S. officials remaining tight-lipped about the investigation of a top diplomat suspected of passing information to the Soviets, the emerging picture is one of a frustrated bureaucrat who may have aroused intelligence doubts a decade ago.

Administration, legislative and law enforcement officials skirted questions Sunday about the probe of Felix B. Bloch, the former second-in-command at the U.S. embassy in Austria for seven years.

Bloch is the target of an intelligence probe, making him the highest-ranking U.S. official ever implicated in an espionage investigation involving the Soviet Union.

Bloch, who has not been charged with any crime, reportedly was filmed by U.S. officials earlier this year passing a briefcase to a known Soviet KGB agent in a European capital.

The State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are "pursuing the inquiry thoroughly in order to identify the compromised security which has occurred and the appropriate steps," the State Department said. Bloch's

building pass and security clearance have been lifted.

"My directions are really not to comment on this case," an FBI spokesman said Sunday. "You're talking about security matters."

Press aides for Senators David L. Boreas, an Oklahoma Democrat, and William S. Cohen, a Maine Republican, the chairman and the vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said Sunday the senators had no comment on the reports.

U.S. President George Bush, on his return Sunday from Camp David, Maryland, ignored reporters' shouting questions about Bloch.

Sen. Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, also a member of the intelligence committee, said Sunday on a U.S. television news programme that he had not been briefed on the Bloch case but added: "It could be very serious indeed."

Although reports remained sketchy, the picture was emerging of a 54-year-old career diplomat who was frustrated by his lack of advancement while serving in Vienna under two political appointees.

Vienna, because of geography, traditionally has been a hotbed for East-West spy activity.



Felix Bloch

Bloch's close friend, Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, was quoted Sunday as saying he heard about the recent allegations of espionage through Austrian channels three weeks before the news broke in Washington Friday.

Mock said in the Austrian tabloid Kurier there was "a certain suspicion on the U.S. side reaching back into the 1970s," about Bloch's activities.

Bloch also served in the newly opened U.S. embassy in East Berlin in 1974 as economic counselor, having been trans-

ferred from West Berlin.

Bloch's neighbours in an upper-class neighbourhood in Washington told reporters that Bloch, who had been under obvious surveillance by the FBI until news accounts of the spy probe aired late Friday, had not been seen since then.

Another U.S. television network, ABC, reported Sunday night he was under the FBI's watch at a private home north of New York City with his wife and daughter.

By all accounts, Bloch, born in Austria, had access to sensitive intelligence material during his career, and officials expressed concern he could cause serious damage to U.S. interests if he shared his secrets with foreign powers.

But those who knew Bloch well ruled out spying for money or ideology. Mock said he was "deeply shaken and really shattered" by the allegations.

Sources told ABC that Bloch claimed he spied because he fell into a Soviet sex trap but that investigators have discounted the story.

Some sources pointed to Bloch's frustration over having been passed over for an ambassadorship after serving under political appointees in Austria and running the embassy in Vienna for a time.

One of the ambassadors Bloch served was Helmut Damm, an Austrian-born political appointee by former President Ronald Reagan who caused a scandal in Viennese society by marrying Peter Guerter, a hotel owner. She resigned in June 1985, citing speculation that her marriage constituted a conflict of interest with her diplomatic duties.

Bloch ran the embassy after voo Damm resigned until Ronald S. Lauder arrived almost a year later.

Lauder, now a Republican candidate for mayor of New York, told reporters Saturday that he demanded Bloch be recalled in July 1987 because of "insubordination." The former ambassador said he knew nothing about espionage allegations.

But the New York Times reported Monday that the former director general of the foreign service, George S. West, disputed that assertion. "It was time for him to go anyway, so we brought him back," said West, who added that Bloch returned to attend a seminar for top diplomats.

Bloch holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

COLUMN

Bardot admits ordering donkey castrated

SAINT-TROPEZ, France (R) — Former movie sex-symbol Brigitte Bardot acknowledges she ordered an over-amorous donkey castrated but says her respect for animals is beyond question. Bardot, a prominent animal rights campaigner since she retired from films, was looking after the four-year-old donkey Charly while his owner, her Riviera neighbour Pierre Manivet, was away. But Charly tried to get passionate with her donkey Mimosa, a 32-year-old mare. A vet called in by Bardot said the beast could be dangerous and, with her consent, carried out the irreversible operation. Bardot said in a statement issued by her lawyer, Manivet, who called the action "unspeakable," says Bardot is refusing to return Charly and he will go to court to get him back. He refuses to meet Bardot until she apologises. "This will never be the same for Charly," he said.

Kuwait saves cannons saved from water

KUWAIT (R) — Four rusty, 18th century cannons, once intended to defend Kuwait, have been saved from a watery grave. Archaeologist Fahd Al Wohaibi discovered the weapons had been dumped into the sea during reconstruction work at the old port of Kuwait. Wohaibi, assistant director of the Department of Antiquities and Museums, told Reuters he ordered the guns to be salvaged and exhibited in the Kuwait National Museum. "I remembered having seen old cannons when I visited the area as a child," he said. Official records show that the British navy in 1920 gave Kuwait a number of old cannons that were placed on the city walls for protection against bedouin tribes.

Wrestler wins seat in Japan parliament

TOKYO (R) — Antonio Inoki, a professional wrestler who once fought heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali, grabbed a seat in elections for the upper house of Japan's parliament. Inoki, 46, a candidate for the Sports and Peace Party, which collected more than 750,000 votes nationwide, won his seat through proportional representation. Throughout his campaign, Inoki promised to chop the newly introduced and unpopular sales tax. "I would like to be a politician who talks directly with the public, like professional wrestlers do," Inoki said in a televised interview. Inoki and Ali fought to a draw in an exhibition match in Tokyo in 1976. He has fought several non-wrestlers, including world karate champion Willie Williams, and a Soviet judo gold medalist. Other small parties contesting Sunday's elections for half the seats in the upper house — such as the Sunshine Party, the Ufo Party and the Pension Party — were unable to gather enough votes to send candidates to parliament.

Garbage turns political

VENICE (AP) — A pink Floyd rock concert that left St. Mark's Square covered with garbage has turned into a political nightmare for local officials. The Venice City government offered to resign last Monday after civic groups condemned the officials for not providing hotel, first aid, toilet and other facilities for the estimated 200,000 people who attended the free show. Mayor Antonio Casellati said he and members of city council would offer their resignations to the five political parties forming the governing coalition.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	TEMP.	WIND	MOON
AMSTERDAM	18 24 25 77	Clear	
ATHENS	20 28 33 81	Clear	
BAGDAD	31 38 41 100	Clear	
BANGKOK	25 32 34 90	Partly	
Buenos Aires	20 25 31 68	Partly	
CAIRO	28 33 37 92	Clear	
CHICAGO	17 23 28 84	Cloudy	
COPENHAGEN	17 23 25 79	Clear	
FRANKFURT	17 23 31 82	Cloudy	
GENEVA	18 24 34 89	Clear	
HONG KONG	27 31 36 90	Cloudy	
ISTANBUL	18 24 32 84	Clear	
LONDON	18 24 32 84	Clear	
LOS ANGELES	20 25 27 77	Cloudy	
MADRID	18 24 32 84	Clear	
MECCA	18 24 32 84	Clear	
MONTREAL	18 24 32 84	Cloudy	
MOSCOW	12 14 19 58	Clear	
NEW DELHI	23 31 34 89	Clear	
NEW YORK	22 34 38 100	Cloudy	
PARIS	21 30 37 87	Cloudy	
ROME	17 23 30 81	Clear	
SYDNEY	08 14 16 57	Clear	
TOKYO	25 31 35 89	Clear	
VIENNA	18 24 32 84	Cloudy	

M - indicates missing information.